

Tharptown Fire Department

23 Hwy 80

Russellville, Al. 35654

Cell # 256-332-8820

To whom it may concern:

I would like to express the importance of broadband in a rural community. As you well know, a high-speed internet connection is critical for various aspect of life including our educational systems and economic development. This service is as important as electricity was to the rural areas in the early 1900s. With the ongoing threat of COVID-19, lack of access to a high speed internet connection is detrimental to our children and our local citizens. Without this, we have little to no access to work from home or to allow our students to participate in virtual learning. It is a service we need desperately in our community.

We are sending this letter in full support of Tombigbee Communication's fiber initiative which includes providing true, high speed broadband to every home and business in our area. It is no secret the rural areas in America have been falling behind our larger city neighbors. This type of project in our county gives us hope to increase our economic development, help our schools, improve our medical facilities and enhance our quality of life. We need something like this to encourage people and businesses to remain in our town. We need this to help us recruit new jobs for our great people. Simply, we need more opportunities. With the promise of a true high-speed connection, the opportunities are limitless. In the world we are living in today, fiber is no longer simply an option: it is a necessity. In order to be successful and to survive, this is a service we simply must have.

We stand behind Tombigbee Communications as they work to enhance the lives of those in Northwest Alabama. We are looking forward to receiving this world class service soon. We are anxiously awaiting the exciting opportunities and development this will bring to our rural area.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Cohens". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Doug" being more prominent and the last name "Cohens" following in a similar style.

Chief Doug Cohens