



City of Haleyville

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The city of Haleyville totally supports the grant request issued by freedom FIBER. We recognize the lack of high-speed internet is the biggest threat to life in rural Alabama. Problems exist in our retention of local industries, recruitment of new industries, our educational system, our medical system and overall quality of life.

We recognize that in order to compete in today's global market that high-speed internet is just as important as water and electricity. We are competing with urban communities for new industries and are not competitive without a fiber internet system. Our existing industries are at a disadvantage and complain about our inadequate internet service. Our largest employer has over 600 employees and they rely on the internet for digital displays to sell their product. Currently, they cannot utilize their digital interaction and multimedia because of a lack of bandwidth. They are planning an expansion away from Haleyville to an area that can give them access to high-speed internet. That will be a loss to our community of an additional 100 jobs. We are just asking for a level playing field.

The lack of access to an adequate internet creates a poorly functioning educational system and healthcare system. Students have access to the internet while at school but most do not have access at their homes. Our hospital needs to utilize the latest digital technology and telemedicine to improve patient care. We have an excellent school system and many students go on to college. However, we lose these individuals that have to go to larger cities to gain employment. In order to attract these graduates, we must have industries that provide them opportunities to utilize their skills. We cannot attract these types of industries without high-speed internet. The city of Haleyville wants to grow and offer a fiber connection for our citizens, businesses and industries. We want to be a part of the 21st century economy.

Sincerely,

Ken Sunseri
Mayor