



3196 County Hwy 55 * Hamilton, AL 35570 * Phone: 205-921-6712 * Fax: 205-921-6738

2018 Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund Grant Application

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|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Project Name: | Whitehouse Community |
| Legal Name of Entity: | Tombigbee Communications, LLC |
| Mailing Address: | 3196 County Hwy 55 Hamilton, AL 35570 |
| Name and Title of CEO: | Steve Foshee, CEO |
| Name and Title of Contact: | Brenda Overton, CFO |
| Phone Number and Email of Contact: | 205-921-6741 boverton@tombigbee.org |

Does this project serve locations with demonstrated community support?

Community support for freedomFIBER, Tombigbee Communication's answer to the broadband need in their region, has been overwhelming. The community leaders recognize that if it was not for Tombigbee building their network, the chances of a change for the better in this region would be slim to none.

C3 of Northwest Alabama, a regional economic development organization speaks of the many challenges, specifically the lack of high-speed internet services, faced when trying to recruit new industry to the region (see Attachment C – Other Priorities Question 3 – C3 Letter.pdf).

Habitat for Humanity shares in Tombigbee's interest in promoting prosperity and community development within the region and need the Tombigbee service to provide better service to those they help (see Attachment C – Other Priorities Question 3 – Habitat for Humanity.pdf).

Peter Hayes, Management of Masonite, an interior door manufacturer, located in Haleyville, AL, speaks of relying on Continuous Improvement to maintain their competitive edge and the need for high-speed Internet to improve their competitive advantage (see Attachment C – Other Priorities Question 3 – Haleyville - Masonite.pdf).

Brad Knight, VP of Engineering for Kith Kitchens, located in Haleyville, AL states Internet connectivity is vital to the business process at Kith. It is extremely important for them to have reliable high-speed connectivity, enabling them to communicate with their customers regarding orders (see Attachment C – Other Priorities Question 3 – Haleyville – Kith Kitchens.pdf).



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David Miller, owner of Mill Creek Lumber located in Haleyville, AL says his business currently does not have Internet access and it makes it very difficult to compete with other mills offering faster and better services because they have the communication methods necessary to do so (see Attachment C – Other Priorities Question 3 – Haleyville – Mill Creek Lumber.pdf).

Tom Frey, VP of Stone Canyon Cabins, located in Brilliant, AL says their manufacturing would benefit greatly with the ability to communicate more with their customers online using reliable high-speed Internet services (see Attachment C – Other Priorities Question 3 – Brilliant – Stone Canyon Cabins.pdf).

Charles McPeak, VP of Tullahoma Industries, LLC, located in Brilliant, AL, stresses the comparison between the need for electricity in the 1940's and the need for high-speed Internet today. He states, reliable high-speed Internet is a must for our community's survival (see Attachment C – Other Priorities Question 3 – Brilliant – Tullahoma.pdf).

These are just a few examples of the community supporting the Tombigbee project. There is a need like no other in the last several decades. This region is in a constant state of decline and according to all community leaders, broadband is a step in the right direction.