

United States Senate

October 23, 2017

Kirk Keysor
U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 431
Denver, CO 80204

Dear Mr. Keysor:

I write to you in support of InterBel Telephone Cooperative's (ITC) application for the FY2017 Economic Development Assistance Program to build fiber optic lines within the business corridor of Eureka, Montana.

If successful, ITC will use funding to build fiber optic lines within the business corridor of Eureka along US Highway 93 and extending approximately three-fourths of a mile along Highway 37 to serve a newly expanded company.

Since 1962, ITC has worked to provide reliable telephone services to Lincoln County. By the end of 2018, ITC expects to have properties outside the Highway 93 corridor fully connected to fiber. A final component of the fiber construction project, however, is to connect the business corridor of Eureka to high speed fiber optics – that's where this program could be of great benefit. As a rural community, improved connectivity will greatly benefit Eureka by growing existing businesses, creating new business opportunities and overall expanding the economic diversification of the Eureka area. In addition, ITC expects that the completion of the project will result in the development of at least 30 new jobs in the Eureka area.

I trust you will give this application fair and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines
United States Senator