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August 25, 2020

Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, KY 40602

Re: Case No. 2020-00215

Dear PSC members,

The Henderson County Fiscal Court writes to you today in full support of Kenergy Corp.'s request for a waiver to allow it the opportunity to offer its customers high-speed broadband internet services.

As is the case in many Kentucky counties, a vast majority of the rural residents in our county do not have access to wired, high-speed internet. This leaves them making do with very slow wireless internet service (if the wireless signal can actually be received at their homes), expensive cell-based internet that can be spotty (if their cell phone carriers even offer it), or expensive and slow service via satellite. These options are often not robust enough nor fast enough to support non-traditional instruction platforms such as Zoom, stream video or handle multiple users in a household at one time. In an age in which fast, reliable internet access has become a necessity, rural Kentucky lags behind. And private internet providers, whose decisions are motivated almost entirely by profit potential, have been slow, if not refused, to alleviate that situation.

Electric cooperatives such as Kenergy are in the perfect position to fix this access problem for the commonwealth's rural families. They already have networks of existing infrastructure and easements, allowing them to more easily run high-speed fiber directly to homes. Due to the mission on which they were created, co-ops also focus less on profits and more on rural public service.

I, Judge Executive Brad Schneider, along with Magistrates Butch Puttman, Tim Southard, Keith Berry, Elizabeth Moran and Charles R. McCollom III, urge you to grant Kenergy's request for a waiver. That approval could lead to a great leap forward in technology, quality of life and economic development throughout rural Kentucky and especially in Kenergy's service area.

Sincerely,

Brad Schneider
County Judge/Executive

