

DATE

Administrator Chad Rupe
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rural Utilities Service
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-1510

Dear Administrator Rupe,

I am writing to support GCI's application for a ReConnect grant to bring modern high-speed internet service to the Aleutian Chain for the first time.

[Please replace this bracketed text with a short description of your organization and its mission; and any other information you think would be helpful, such as your historic ties to the region.]

Modern internet service is necessary for our community to thrive. The Aleutian Chain is one of the most remote regions in the United States. We depend on telemedicine services for our health and on distance learning services to educate our children. Today, those services are delivered over satellite. Delivering these services over submarine fiber optic cable will dramatically increase their quality and allow them to be offered at a more affordable price, directly improving health and well-being in our community and creating new opportunities for our young people.

Broadband also is necessary for continued economic development. Our largest local businesses compete in a global market against companies that use broadband to operate efficiently. Our local businesses need high-speed broadband to compete on a level-playing field and remain successful. This will ensure that good jobs continue to be available locally, providing the income that supports local families which in turn allows them to support our other local businesses, which also will benefit from broadband. This virtual circle of investment and reliance will keep our community strong and give us the tools we need to prosper.

High-speed broadband also is increasingly important for social relevance and inclusion, an issue of special importance in the Alaska Native communities in the Aleutian Chain. Modern internet service will allow us to share our cultural heritage and values, promoting cultural understanding. It also will help us overcome the isolation that can result from the remoteness of our community.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope we can work together to improve the quality of life in my community.

Respectfully Yours,

SIGNATURE BLOCK