

May 6, 2025

**Via Email Only – (broadband.fund@adeca.alabama.gov)**

Ms. Maureen Neighbors

Chief, Alabama Digital Expansion Division

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA)

**RE: Letter of Support for Brightspeed - ADECA Grant for Fiber Installation**

Dear Ms. Neighbors:

I am writing on behalf of the Baldwin County Commission to express our support for the proposed BEAD grant application submitted by Brightspeed. We have reviewed the application, including the proposed project service area and proposed service offerings, and believe that this project will bring internet speeds of up to a maximum of 2/2 Gbps to homes, businesses and Community Anchor Institutions within the County.

Access to broadband is no longer a luxury, but a necessity that serves as an economic engine and connects a global world. We see this grant application as an exciting opportunity to expand broadband service to those areas currently underserved and unserved and provide significant and tangible benefits with regards to economic development and education by encouraging businesses to come, stay and grow. In addition, by expanding broadband access in Baldwin County, Brightspeed will provide residents passed by the network the opportunity to access telemedicine, remote schooling, and remote work, many of whom will have access to these platforms for the first time.

We look forward to working with Brightspeed to bring these benefits to our community and we urge ADECA to approve this BEAD grant application. Please contact Roger H. Rendleman, County Administrator, at roger.rendleman@baldwincountyal.gov with any questions or to discuss our work with Brightspeed on this proposed project.

Sincerely,

MATTHEW P. MCKENZIE, Chairman  
Baldwin County Commission

MPM/reb Item

cc: Ken Ward, Community Affairs Manager (Alabama and Georgia), Brightspeed  
(kenward@brightspeed.com)