

Executive Summary & Grant Rationale for Tipmont REMC

Tipmont REMC is requesting assistance from the State to provide state of the art fiber optic broadband service to 30 of our unserved members. By approving this application, not only will you bring Gig speed service to these 30 Hoosiers but you will also indirectly be bringing the same service to 281 underserved Hoosiers. Tipmont REMC has already made the commitment to our unserved and underserved members to provide them with high quality, fast, and reliable broadband services. Tipmont REMC is a local, community based company that has been proud to serve rural Hoosiers since 1939. If the State approves this application not only will you be supporting rural Hoosiers but a company who is proud to call Indiana home.

Tipmont REMC is proposing to serve the communities in the North East portions of Tippecanoe County. These unserved communities are located along Jackson Hwy and W County Road 350 N.

Tipmont REMC has been serving these communities with electrical services since 1939. We currently own all the infrastructure the network will be attached to. We have completed two independent feasibility studies and performed multiple marketing and engineering assessments to prepare our company for competing in the broadband service market. Recently we acquired a local fiber optic broadband company, Wintek that has been providing broadband services since 1973. We have completely transformed the structure and culture of our company from a standard electric service provider to a relevant tech company that provides broadband service. Tipmont REMC has the staff and the drive to manage and sustain this project to better the lives of rural Hoosiers.

Today, we find ourselves in a position where Hoosiers on the outskirts of town and in rural communities are expressing their need for fast, reliable internet service and yet companies are not willing to make the same investment because it doesn't meet their profitability targets. The majority of our service territory remains underserved and will likely remain so because of low densities and high costs to serve. Over 70% of the Tipmont membership has voiced their support for Tipmont to offer broadband and related services at a reasonable market price. This unmet need leaves rural Americans at a disadvantage in education, career advancement, communication and economic development. The two-tier society of haves and have-nots leaves rural Americans facing a very tough choice to either: (a) accept conditions that yield less opportunity and quality of life or to (b) leave their community. Tipmont REMC will eliminate this tough choice by providing high-speed, reliable broadband services to rural Hoosiers.