



November, 2019

Mr. Jason Kronemeyer  
Director of Technology  
Eastern U.P. Intermediate School District  
315 Armory Place  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

RE: Letter of support for Broadband Development

Dear Jason:

Please know that the Les Cheneaux Community Foundation has recognized the need for broadband internet service to the Les Cheneaux Area for some time. Presently, the economic development growth opportunities in the area are crippled due to our lack of access to the broadband infrastructure.

We are delighted to learn that the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District is working to correct this persistent problem and wish you to know that we throw our full support behind your efforts. It is only right that rural areas, like the Eastern Upper Peninsula, be offered the same opportunities for economic growth that other, more populace areas of Michigan, are afforded.

Our ability to compete with other, similar regions across the State and Nation will depend on our ability to re-categorize broadband internet service from luxury to utility. Facilitating access to larger networks increases our ability to enhance our industrial parks, support our entrepreneurs, health care providers, education providers and existing businesses.

If there is anything we can do to help support this regional effort to expand the broadband effort to our more rural areas, please know we stand ready to assist where possible.

Sincerely,

Kenneth G. Drenth, Director  
Les Cheneaux Community Foundation

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An affiliate of the Community Foundation of the Upper Peninsula

P.O. Box 249 • Cedarville, Michigan 49719 • 906-484-2484

[www.lescheneauxcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.lescheneauxcommunityfoundation.org)



## FIBER OPTIC DEVELOPMENT RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, sustainable socioeconomic development in the Eastern Upper Peninsula will depend on access to secure, high-capacity broadband internet, delivered via networks of fiber optic conduit;

**WHEREAS**, large swathes of the Eastern Upper Peninsula are currently not served by existing fiber optic networks because network development is cost-prohibitive;

**WHEREAS**, the Eastern Upper Peninsula Fiber Development Consortium proposes to fill that void by partnering with regional institutions (Including, but not limited to, the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District, Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission, and Mackinac Economic Alliance) to expand the fiber optic network through a middle-mile infrastructure development project;

**WHEREAS**, State and Federal governments have recognized that e-connectivity is limited in many rural areas and through finding mechanisms, are actively working to remedy this through the expansion of fiber optic networks;

**WHEREAS**, this consortium will not be responsible for providing internet, or connecting individual homes to the network, but will take on the single greatest share of the costs associated with fiber optic network development;

**WHEREAS**, to ensure that our communities remain vibrant and vital, it is imperative that this middle-mile fiber optic network development be completed as soon as possible;

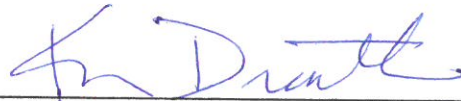
**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Les Cheneaux Community Foundation Board, located in Clark Township, of Mackinac County, Michigan, will act in support of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Fiber Development Consortium to complete a middle-mile fiber optic network.

**FURTHERMORE**, be it resolved that the Les Cheneaux Community Foundation will partner with the Eastern Upper Peninsula Fiber Development Consortium to apply for grants to expand existing fiber networks.

I hereby certify that this resolution was passed by the Les Cheneaux Community Foundation Board of Trustees in November, 2019 by a vote of

\_\_16\_\_ Ayes

\_\_0\_\_ Nays



Kenneth G. Drenth, Director