



May 11, 2021

Congressman Sam Graves  
1135 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Graves,

On behalf of Economic Development Sedalia-Pettis County's Board of Directors' and the over 70 manufacturers in Pettis County, please accept this letter of support for the Eliminating Barriers to Rural Internet Development Grant Eligibility (E-BRIDGE) Act.

Manufacturing and industrial-related employers represent approximately 30-40% of Pettis County's employment base. Our labor basin attracts individuals from 10 rural communities to work in Pettis County on a daily basis. By offering more robust broadband access in the workplace and residences, we can build the pipeline of talent needed for these employers to remain and grow within our communities. Expanded broadband access for students, job seekers and current employees would allow for more individuals to upskill and remain connected in this technology-led economy.

Since 2016, Economic Development has worked with companies to expand their facilities or build new locations here resulting in 1,218 new jobs, 1,160 retained jobs and new capital investment of \$382M. Those new jobs will bring a net new payroll of \$72.9M to the community with an average annual salary of \$59,904! Our existing manufacturers and new companies are choosing to re-invest and grow within Sedalia and Pettis County! With this growth, it is imperative that individuals have access to reliable fiber connectivity where they live. In many instances, access to fiber in the home drives where people are choosing to buy homes and raise families. We have great family-supporting jobs waiting for these individuals and want to ensure they do not face barriers such as lack of broadband.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 660-221-9923 or [jessica.craig@sedaliamoed.com](mailto:jessica.craig@sedaliamoed.com) if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica L. Craig'.

Jessica L. Craig  
Executive Director

*Economic Development Works For You*

3615 W. Broadway, Suite 301 - Sedalia, Missouri 65301 - USA - phone 660-827-0884 - fax 660-827-2550 - [info@SedaliaMoED.com](mailto:info@SedaliaMoED.com)