

May 14, 2021

Mr. Jim Stritzinger
Broadband Project Administrator
State of South Carolina
Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

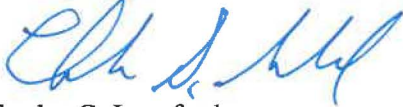
Dear Mr. Stritzinger:

Comporium is committed to bridging the digital divide within Lancaster County. We are excited to respond to the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program application.

Please review the attached application which shares all the details. We are extremely excited about this project and look forward to the opportunity to work together as a partner and achieve success together. If you need clarification or further information concerning the application, please do not hesitate to contact me at greg.lunsford@comporium.com.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Charles G. Lunsford'.

Charles G. Lunsford
Vice President – Regulatory Affairs

Attachment



APPLICATION

South Carolina 2021 Rural Broadband Grant Program

Applicant Information

Applicant Name/Organization **Lancaster Telephone Company**

Applicant FCC Registration Number (FRN) **0001-8892-45**

Primary Contact Name **Chris Moody**

Title **Regulatory Cost Analyst**

Mailing Address **330 East Black Street**

Phone Number **803-326-7255**

City, State, Zip **Rock Hill, SC 29730**

Email **chris.moody@comporium.com**

Broadband Service Provider Experience

Date of Applicant's Initial FCC Form 477 Submission **09/01/2000**

Date of Applicant's Most Recent FCC Form 477 Submission **04/05/2021**

Applicant and/or Project Partner has Experience:

- Delivering broadband service via fiber and/or hybrid fiber-coax infrastructure
- Delivering broadband service via fixed wireless infrastructure
- Building and operating broadband networks in rural areas
- Operating broadband networks in low-moderate income areas

Project Area Information

Eligible County Impact

Counties
(list)

Cities/Towns/Municipalities
(list)

Households

Businesses

Health Care Facilities

Community Anchor Institutions

Educational Institutions

Contiguous County Impact

Counties

(list) Lancaster

Cities/Towns/Municipalities

(list)

Unincorporated Areas - Near Buford,
South Carolina.

Households 430

Businesses 19

Health Care Facilities 0

Community Anchor Institutions 0

Educational Institutions 0

Broadband Infrastructure Information

Indicate the type(s) of broadband infrastructure technology to be deployed in the project area.



Fiber to the Premises Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds 1000/1000



Hybrid fiber-coax Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
(symmetrical upload/download speeds)



Hybrid fiber-coax Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds
(non-symmetrical upload/download speeds)



Fixed wireless Minimum Sustainable Download/Upload Speeds

Broadband Pricing Schedules or Tiers

Indicate all rate tiers for wireline projects of at least 100/20 Mbps or fixed wireless at 50/5 Mbps or faster that will be offered to customers in the project area:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rates less than \$10/month | <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$20 - \$24.99/month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$10 - \$14.99/month | <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$25 - \$34.99/month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rates between \$15 - \$19.99/month | |

Project Timeline

Project Start Date 07/01/2021	Customer Premises
Project Construction Activity Begins 10/01/2021	Installations Begin 06/30/2022
Project Construction Activity Complete 09/30/2022	Installations End 10/31/2022
	Overall Project Completion Date 10/31/2022

Project Cost Information

Total Project Cost \$1,638,850	Average Cost per Location Served (all locations or structures) \$3,650
Upfront Cost Requirements \$0	
Cost of Building and/or Extending Infrastructure to Customer Premises \$1,638,850	Average Cost per Housing Unit \$3,650
	Average Cost per Business \$3,650

Project Funding Information

South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program Funds requested (\$) \$819,425

Applicant-Provided Funding (\$) \$819,425

Non-Public Funding

Amount (\$)

Source(s)

Additional Information

- 1) Describe Applicant's and/or project Partner's experience building and/or operating broadband networks.

Please see attached .pdf file for response.

- 2) Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines."

Please see attached .pdf file for response.

- 3) Describe any plans or programs you have developed to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal. Please include letters of support from key community partners that indicate their awareness of your project.

Please see attached .pdf file for response.

- 4) Provide documents that demonstrate your organization currently has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.

See attached bank letter.

- 5) List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.

County Road Permits and/or SC Highway Permits will be obtained prior to construction being performed.

Attachments and Exhibits

Please attach the following items to application:

- Map of project area (*PDF and Shapefile formats*)
- Letters of support evidencing community need and strategic partnerships
- Any additional information evidencing community need for project
- Most recent FCC Form 477 filing

Certification and Signature

CERTIFICATION: The Applicant certifies that information included in this application is factual to their knowledge.

Signature:



Print Name of Signatory: Charles G. Lunsford

Title of Signatory: Vice President - Regulatory Affairs

Date: 05/14/2021

All questions and completed applications should be submitted to Broadband@ORS.SC.GOV

Facsimile signatures and email signatures shall be as effective as original signatures to bind any party.



Question 1) Describe Applicant's and/or project Partner's experience building and/or operating broadband networks.

Lancaster Telephone Company, an affiliate of Comporium, Inc, is an independent telecommunications company located in Lancaster, South Carolina. Lancaster Telephone serves voice, broadband, and video customers in Lancaster County and parts of Kershaw County and Chester County. It also offers wireless service in partnership with AT&T under a limited liability company arrangement. Lancaster Telephone Company offers Digital Subscriber Line, Cable Modem, and Fiber-To-The-Home to both residential and business customers. DSL has three speed tiers to choose from: Standard (Downstream / Upstream) - (7Mbps/1Mbps), Ultra (9Mbps/1Mbps), and Elite (11Mbps/1Mbps). Coax has four tiers: Standard (300Mbps/5Mbps), Ultra (600Mbps/10Mbps), Elite (750Mbps/20Mbps) and Zipstream (1000Mbps/35Mbps). The FTTH product has four speed tiers: Standard (300Mbps/300Mbps), Ultra(600Mbps/600Mbps), Elite (750Mbps/750Mbps) and Zipstream (1GB/1GB).

In addition to voice, broadband, and video services, Lancaster Telephone Company offers Metro Ethernet services that provide customers a redundant and secure way to transfer mission-critical data. Lancaster Telephone Company's Metro Ethernet service is a high-speed (10 Mbps to 10 Gbps) packet-based service that provides the transmission of point-to-point LAN or WAN data between a customer's locations. Metro Ethernet circuits can also be ordered to provide dedicated bandwidth to the internet. Our Customer Network Operations Center offers technical support with proactive network monitoring of customer's Metro Ethernet circuits to ensure consistent, high-level performance. Lancaster Telephone Company's MPLS core network provides diverse and redundant IP routing that supports all of the customer facing services. Lancaster Telephone Company uses a variety of last mile technologies to serve customers including xDSL, Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH), and Hybrid Fiber Coax (HFC). Lancaster Telephone Company also operates a remote switch and has connections to Comporium, Inc. and one of its sister companies who provide equipment to operate voice, data, and video networks.

Lancaster Telephone has been deploying FTTH networks since 2005. The Lancaster Telephone Company's remote switch homes to the Comporium, Inc. owned Rock Hill Class 5 Switch. The voice traffic from the remotes, as identified in NECA Tariff No. 4, and all the data and video utilize the redundant fiber connections to the Rock Hill host switch, core broadband network, and video headend. The Comporium, Inc. network connects the voice and data traffic to the world. Leveraging these assets at the parent company level provides some economies of scale to Lancaster. Lancaster Telephone Company does perform its own customer service, and installation and repair. It has a business office within the city of Lancaster for its customers to purchase services. The University Place office is located near the University of South Carolina – Lancaster campus. This location is nestled in a busy shopping area for the community. Customers can come into any business offices to provision service, pay bills, or ask questions to available service representatives. Lancaster Telephone Company has a plant work center location that houses the Installation and Repair group. Each of Lancaster Telephone Company's 13 remote offices are designed and equipped to support the operation of communications networks. These remotes are equipped with sufficient battery backup in the event of an emergency.

Lancaster NE Application Questions

Question 2) Describe how your proposal meets the needs of the community to be served as described in the "Guidelines."

Lancaster County is located 40 miles south of Charlotte, North Carolina. The county land area covers 555 square miles and has an estimated population of 98,012. Lancaster, the largest incorporated municipality is the county seat with a population of 9,119. Kershaw, Van Wyck, and Heath Springs are smaller incorporated municipalities within the county. Kershaw has a population of 2,321. Van Wyck has a population of 1,080. Heath Springs has a population of 1,019. Indian Land is a very populated unincorporated part of the county.

Lancaster County thrived economically for nearly 100 years due to the booming textile industry lead by Springs Industries. When the textile industry was at its peak Springs Industries employed many residents in Lancaster and the surrounding area. The White Plant the largest textile plant in the world at one time, employed nearly one-third of the county's population. As globalization of the textile industry evolved, Springs Industries struggled to maintain a competitive advantage against overseas competitors. The company announced that all operations in the Lancaster area would cease and that all employees were laid off. Many employees had worked for the company for decades. This announcement was detrimental to the local economy of Lancaster County. Workers who had a specific skill set in textile manufacturing struggled to find similar jobs so geographically close to the community in which they have lived and worked for years. Although the mills closed over ten years ago, the economic impact is still being felt by those who worked there.

Lancaster was also the home of the Duracell battery plant for nearly 42 years. The company once employed nearly 1,200 people during peak operation, producing nearly 5 million AA batteries each day. Duracell was sold many times over the last 20 years. The final owner of the Lancaster plant was Berkshire Hathaway. A year after purchasing Duracell, Berkshire Hathaway announced it would be closing the Lancaster Plant over a period of three years. The announcement of the plant closure was very unexpected and caught local political and economic development leaders off guard. Berkshire Hathaway decided to move the plant operations to LaGrange Georgia where it will consolidate the production of AA and AAA batteries into one physical location. The disposable battery market has drastically shifted in recent years. Now many consumer products now have rechargeable batteries. This was another driving factor in the closing of the Lancaster location. The plant finally closed in 2019, leaving 430 people unemployed.

Lancaster County has 10,578 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with 166 deaths. Since the pandemic began many small businesses have permanently closed. Jin's buffet, Foxes Pizza, and Gus' Family Restaurant all closed due to a lack of business during the pandemic. The last remaining Bilo in the area closed in February 2021 after serving the community for nearly 50 years. Craft Stand, a poplar brewery that was rated number one in the city for three consecutive years also closed in September 2020. The City of Lancaster closed all public facilities, moving meetings to a virtual format. Many other businesses temporarily closed due to Covid-19 exposures. Bojangles, Founders Federal Credit Union, and the local Belk store had to temporarily close due to employees that had been exposed to the virus. These closures have created economic hardships for employees that were employed. Individuals have relied on the government for unemployment assistance in order make it through this difficult time.

Lancaster NE Application Questions

Lancaster County has experienced many economic challenges in recent years. The current unemployment rate within the county is 6.9%. 2,923 people are currently depending on unemployment assistance. Aside to those people who are unemployed, 11,565 individuals are living in poverty or 11.8%. Individuals who have experienced hardships rely on broadband to communicate, apply for unemployment, and search for jobs. Extending fiber into the most remote areas of the county will greatly assist these individuals by increasing their overall quality of life, and to lift them out of poverty.

Additional broadband can also help combat childhood poverty. The current poverty rate in the Lancaster School District is 53.23%. By adding additional high-speed broadband, this will allow students to complete assignments from home, assist in virtual learning, and increase the overall learning experience. Students who attend school virtually will greatly benefit from upgrading the current DSL infrastructure. Since the maximum DSL speed available to students is 11Mbps/1Mbps, virtual learning may be a challenge. The RBGP funding will allow the DSL infrastructure to be upgraded to fiber, greatly alleviating the risk of students not being able to complete assignments on time. This upgraded technology will keep students on pace with other counterparts across other areas of the state and not be left behind.

Each day 25,768 employees leave Lancaster County to work elsewhere. Broadband expansion into rural areas of the county could allow these individuals to work from home. This could also bolster economic development efforts for small businesses. Employees who used to commute to Mecklenburg, York, or Union Counties would have the ability to spend money at local restaurants, gyms, barber shops, gas stations, and retail stores. These funds would otherwise be leaving Lancaster County each day. Expanding fiber-based broadband access will also make Lancaster County more attractive to industry and to facilitate economic development. When county officials are trying to lure prospective industry, it will be easy to demonstrate the efforts of Comporium and its goal to connect rural areas with high-speed fiber. Companies will be more enticed to re-locate to these areas knowing that high-speed broadband is available to residences and businesses.

Due to the rurality of these locations, delivering high speed internet with speeds of 25/3 has been challenging. Receiving South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program funding would provide the company with the needed capital to deliver state-of-the-art fiber broadband to customers and businesses. Currently the broadband infrastructure in place that serves end user customers is Digital Subscriber Line, (DSL). DSL is offered to customers at three speed tiers: Standard (Downstream / Upstream) - (7Mbps/1Mbps), Ultra (9Mbps/1Mbps), and Elite (11Mbps/1Mbps). This proposal will provide five high speed fiber residential and four business speed tiers for customers to choose from:

Residential Broadband fiber offerings will consist of the following speeds and prices:

Fiber Residential Low-Moderate Income Package 100 Mbps x 20 Mbps = \$9.99 (*With Lifeline Discount Applied)

Fiber Residential Package 1 300 Mbps x 300 Mbps = \$69.94

Fiber Residential Package 2 600 Mbps x 600 Mbps = \$79.94

Fiber Residential Package 3 750 Mbps x 750 Mbps = \$89.94

Lancaster NE Application Questions

Zipstream Residential 1000 Mbps x 1000 Mbps = \$99.94

Business Broadband fiber offerings for locations will consist of the following speeds and prices:

Fiber Business Package 1 300 Mbps x 300 Mbps = \$84.98

Fiber Business Package 2 600 Mbps x 600 Mbps = \$154.98

Fiber Business Package 3 750 Mbps x 750 Mbps = \$204.98

Zipstream Business 1000 Mbps x 1000 Mbps = \$299.99

To encourage broadband adoption, Comporium will create a new low/moderate income package with speeds of 100 Mbps x 20 Mbps. The initial price point is \$19.24. This will be available to qualifying customers who participate in broadband Lifeline service. After applying the Lifeline discount of \$9.25, the rate will be \$9.99 per month for Lifeline customers within the grant areas. This new offering will help those in need during these difficult economic times.

A Wi-Fi access point will be installed at the Buford Recreation Center in Lancaster County. This will allow those in the area who are underserved to have access to broadband at no charge. A letter from the county manager has been included in the application materials.

Comporium understands how beneficial this improved broadband offering will be to the residences and businesses in the Project Area. Therefore, we are committed to working as fast as possible to deliver these services if we are awarded this RBGP Grant. We have seen extended material lead times over the past six months, but we will work with our suppliers to obtain the material required for these overbuilds as soon as practical.

The latest FCC 477 information has already been submitted to Jim Stritzinger. He asked that I put a note in the application regarding this.

The company commits that it will serve all residences and businesses within the application areas on a non-discriminatory basis. All locations will be able to obtain necessary speeds defined by the Rural Broadband Grant Program.

Question 3) Describe any plans or programs you have developed to improve adoption in the community described in this proposal. Please include letters of support from key community partners that indicate their awareness of your project.

Community Adoption Strategy and Plan

Lancaster Telephone Company is committed to assisting anyone in the proposed grant area with getting up to speed on digital literacy, especially those who have not previously had any Internet service and, as result, lack experience. Lancaster Telephone Company plans to provide free Internet access at various community centers, public gathering locations, and community anchor institutions (CAIs), along with informational posters, to allow residents to experience the capabilities of the new broadband connectivity available to them. Lancaster Telephone Company has committed to produce and distribute educational and promotional programs and materials to the community regarding their new broadband service. We also plan on organizing events within the community to raise awareness of the educational

Lancaster NE Application Questions

resources and opportunities found Online that will become available to them. The following actions will also be taken in these efforts:

Press Release: As soon as an award announcement has been finalized and signed by the ORS staff and the legal team of Lancaster Telephone Company a press release will be issued to local media outlets in Lancaster County. These types of media releases will be used first, to make residents and businesses aware of planned upgrades in underserved areas of the service territory.

Direct Phone Calls: Lancaster Telephone Company will generate a list of residential and business locations within the polygons that have been identified as underserved. Outbound phone calls will be made by the automated IVR (interactive voice response) system to notify customers upgrades are coming to their area.

Email Marketing and Advertising Campaign: Current DSL customers of Lancaster Telephone Company have an email address on file with the company. Comporium Marketing personnel will be able to compose an announcement email and send it directly to email addresses of residences and businesses who will benefit from the fiber expansion.

Direct Mail Postcards: Lancaster Telephone Company will implement a direct mail campaign to target locations within the underserved polygon to make them aware of the upgrades. These postcards will notify current DSL customers that their area has been identified and will be upgraded with newer fiber technologies.

Community Engagement Events: Lancaster Telephone Company will hold events at various locations in Lancaster County. These events will be open to the public, so that customers can come ask questions to staff. Lancaster Telephone Company will reach out to various homeowner association (HOA) groups to notify them when these events will take place. The HOA groups can then send an email broadcast out to all homeowners in subdivisions to make them aware of these events.

Broadband User Training Plan

Comporium will strive to train new customers by holding classes at local business offices. The company will also train customers at community centers where we will provide free Wi-Fi. New broadband users will be able to visit the Comporium website for a thorough frequently asked questions section that can assist users. Training videos will also be posted on our website to help with basic broadband questions. Broadband technical support can assist users with any broadband related question that they may have. New broadband users will have the ability to call or chat with broadband technical support. One important factor regarding Comporium broadband technical support is that all employees are all in house. This service is not outsourced. All employees work and live in the service areas.

Question 4) Provide documents that demonstrate your organization currently has the necessary funds (50% of total project cost) to complete this project/proposal. List documents here and attach documents to this proposal.

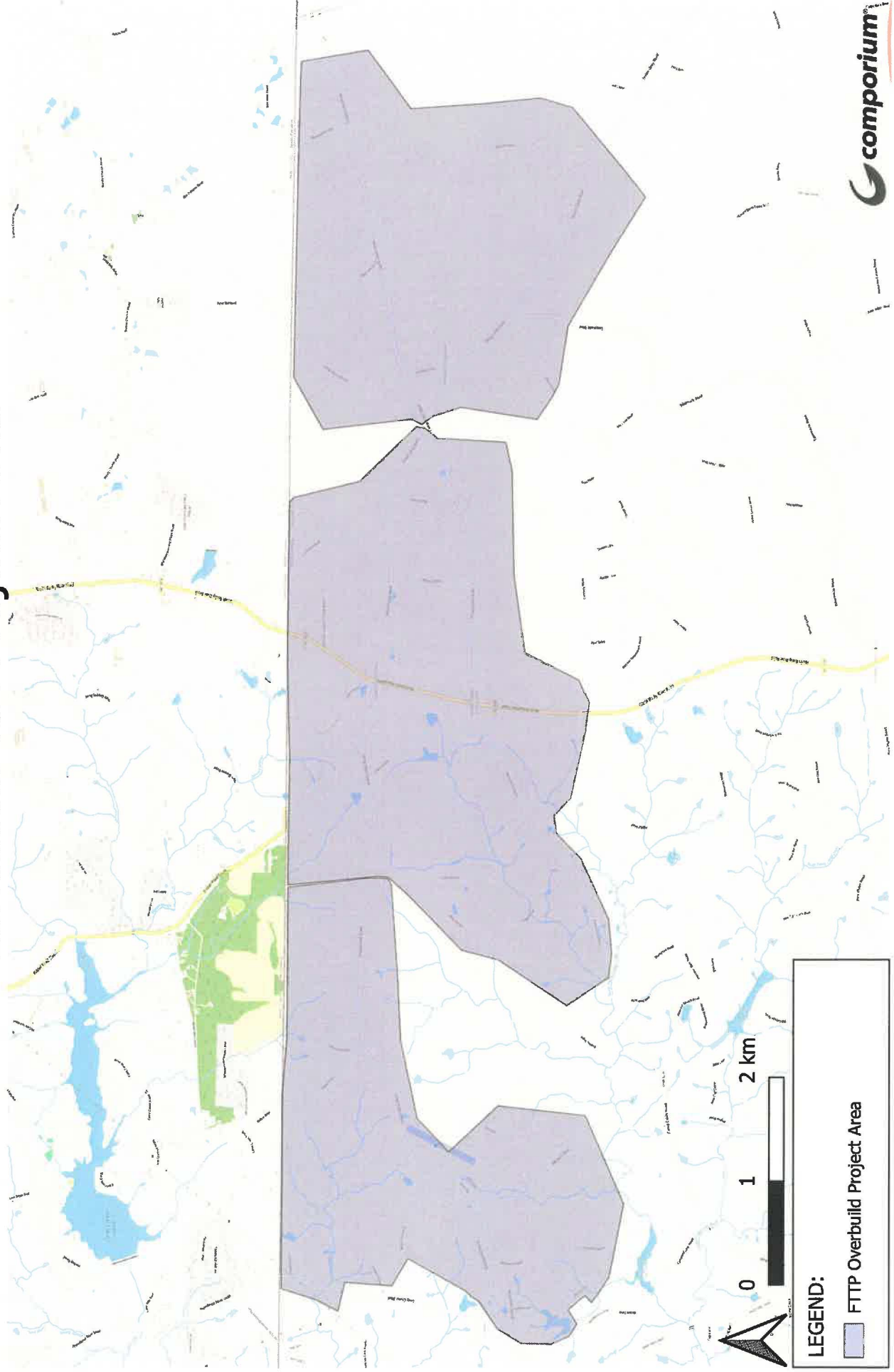
See attached bank letter.

Lancaster NE Application Questions

Question 5) List any lease, franchise agreement, interconnection agreement, authorization, permit, or other items needed to complete this project.

County Road Permits and/or SC Highway Permits will be obtained prior to construction being performed.

Lancaster NE Project Area



LEGEND:

FTP Overbuild Project Area



Lancaster NE WiFi Area

Target Area: Buford Recreation Center



CUSTOMER EDUCATION

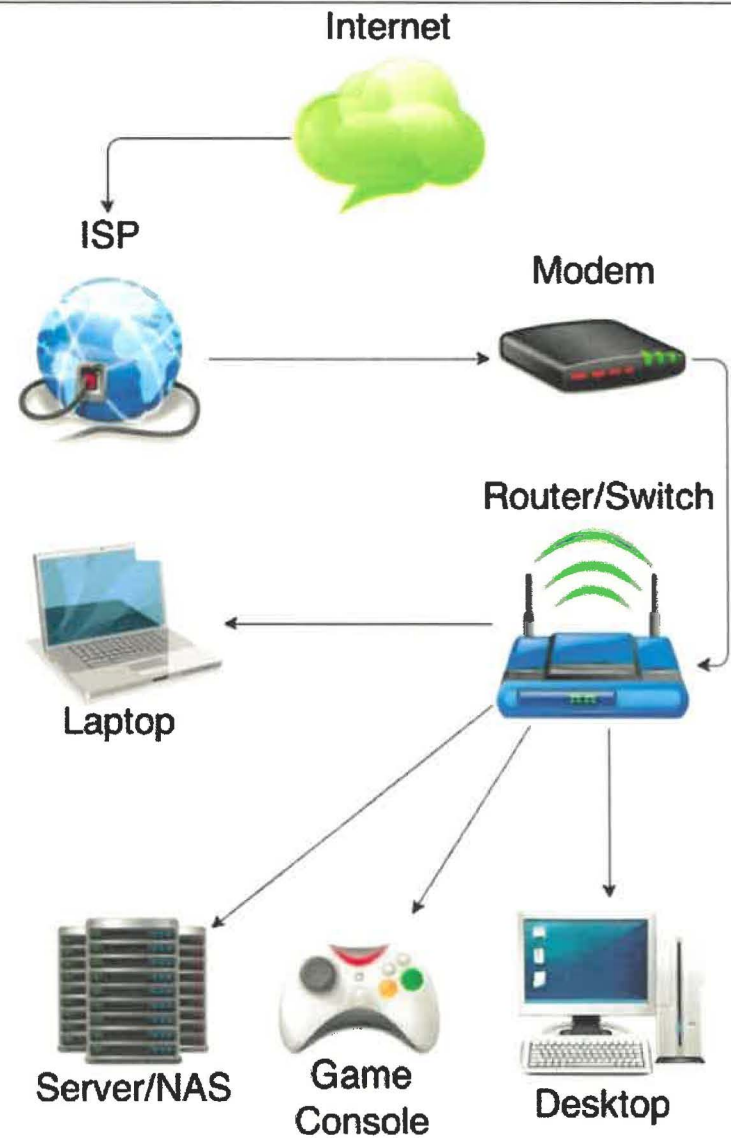
INTERNET SESSION



HOW DOES THE INTERNET WORK??

BASIC CONNECTION

- ISP Connection
- Modem at Customer location
- Switch/ Wi-Fi Router
- End-user Devices



BANDWIDTH

The amount of data that can be carried in a given time period over a network. More technically, bandwidth is the width of the range of frequencies that an electronic signal occupies on a given transmission medium. In digital systems, bandwidth is usually expressed as bps, Kbps or Mbps. In analog systems, it's the number of cycles of change per second, or hertz.

BROADBAND

A type of data transmission in which a single medium (wire) can carry several channels at once. Broadband is a term that is being used interchangeably with high-speed. More specifically, it describes a wideband high-speed data transmission that employs only one wire, which is able to carry multiple channels at once.

EQUIPMENT

HOW MUCH INTERNET SPEED DO I NEED?



Social media



Streaming music



Streaming video



**File download and
storage**



Online gaming



Online video chat

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WIFI AND THE INTERNET?

I'm sure you've heard of the Internet... right?

Well, simply put, it's a big huge network that's changing humanity. Does that Jog your memory?

Now the real question is this: Do you know the difference between the *Internet* and your *WiFi network*?

If you don't, stay calm and I'll explain. If I can get you to remember one thing, it's this: *WiFi* and the *Internet* are two completely separate beasts. If you can remember that moving forward, then half of my job is done.

SO, WIFI IS JUST A RADIO SIGNAL?

Here is the differentiating factor between the *Internet* and *WiFi*. If Internet allows you to access information from other computers across the world using a specific language (protocol), then **WiFi** is just a way of connecting to that wire in your living room wall and out to the Internet, wirelessly. receive information to and from another computer. Without that protocol, even if two computers were connected with a cable, they wouldn't be able to understand each other. Like speaking with someone in Chinese on the phone - the connection is there - but if you don't understand the language, then there's no way you'll ever be able communicate.



2.4 Ghz

The 2.4 GHz band is a pretty crowded place, because it's used by more than just Wi-Fi. Old cordless phones, garage door openers, baby monitors, and other devices tend to use the 2.4 GHz band. The longer waves used by the 2.4 GHz band are better suited to longer ranges and transmission through walls and solid objects. So it's arguably better if you need better range on your devices or you have a lot of walls or other objects in the areas where you need coverage. However, because so many devices use the 2.4 GHz band, the resulting congestion can cause dropped connections and slower-than-expected speeds.



5 Ghz

The 5 GHz band is much less congested, which means you will likely get more stable connections. You'll also see higher speeds. On the other hand, the shorter waves used by the 5 GHz band makes it less able to penetrate walls and solid objects. It's also got a shorter effective range than the 2.4 GHz band. Of course, you may also be able to mitigate that shorter range through the use of range extenders or mesh Wi-Fi systems, but that will mean a bigger investment.



WiFi Problems?



HACKERS

WIFI
INTERFEREN
CE

LACK OF
COVERAGE

SAY GOODBYE TO DEAD ZONES WITH PREMIUM WIFI!

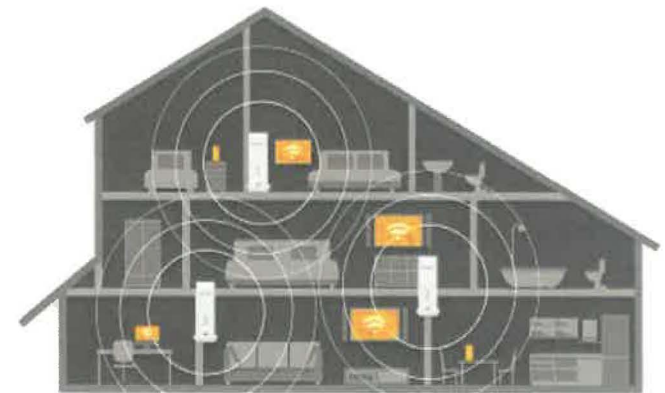
We know being able to enjoy your High Speed Internet from every corner of your home is important to you. Comporium Premium WiFi is the whole home solution for your wireless needs.

Your Entire Home. Covered. Connect to all of your devices, in every room.

Professional Installation Our technicians will personalize your installation according to your needs and the layout of your home.

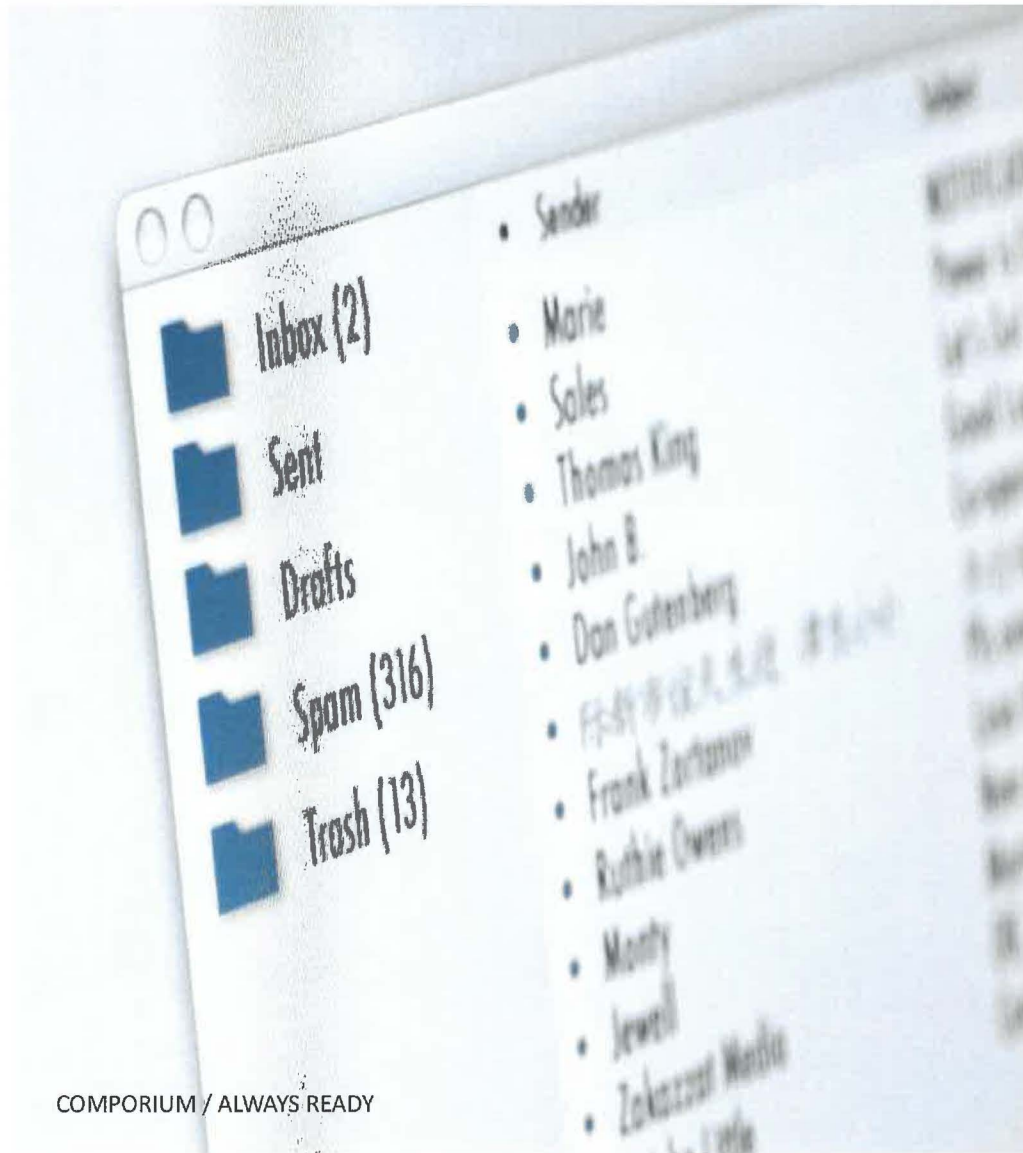
Easily Controlled. See connected devices, test speeds and control settings right from the Premium WiFi app.

Parental Controls. Filter and manage content or set time limits on connected devices!





EMAIL BASICS



5 WAYS TO STOP SPAM FROM INVADING YOUR EMAIL

- Train your filter
- Never respond to spam
- Hide your email address
- Use a third-party anti-spam filter
- Change your email address

ONLINE SCAMS

- Money is Involved
- If It Sounds Too Good to Be True...
- Urgent! Act Now! Don't Wait!
- The Power of Fear
- We Need Some of Your Personal Information



PASSWORD TIPS

1

Don't rely on passwords alone to protect anything you value. **Turn on multi-factor authentication wherever possible.**



2

Use a phrase with multiple words that you can picture in your head, so it's difficult to guess but easy to remember.



Password:

3

Protect your most important accounts, like banking and primary email, by giving each a **unique passphrase.** A password manager can help.



WHY TREND MICRO?



ANTIVIRUS PROTECTION

Keep your computer safe and protected with your free download of Trend Micro. The best in Internet security, Trend Micro protects your computer from harmful viruses. Install Trend Micro by simply selecting 'Manage Anti-Virus Software' through 'My Account.'



QUESTIONS ???



May 11, 2021

Mr. Jim Stritzinger
Broadband Coordinator at SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Re: Comporium – Wi-Fi Access

Dear Mr. Stritzinger:

Please be advised that Lancaster County is in discussions with Lancaster Telephone Company, dba Comporium Communications (“Comporium”) to install Wi-Fi access point within the county at 4073 Hurley Walters Road, Lancaster, SC 29720. We fully support Comporium’s initiative to provide citizens with broadband access in a public area maintained by Lancaster County. Lancaster County will continue to work with Comporium to make a Wi-Fi access hotspot operational.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Willis".

Steve Willis
Lancaster County Administrator

cc: Hal Hiott, Parks and Recreation Director

RALPH NORMAN
5TH DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

569 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4005
(202) 225-5501

454 S. ANDERSON ROAD
SUITE 302B
ROCK HILL, SC 29730

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4005

COMMITTEES
COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND REFORM
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE
ON ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

May 07, 2021

Mr. Jim Stritzinger
Broadband Coordinator at SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Stritzinger:

I support the efforts of Comporium Communications to obtain South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant funding within Lancaster, Kershaw, and Chester Counties.

Many locations in these counties are underserved because of their rural nature. Individuals and businesses in such areas will greatly benefit from high-speed fiber technology. High-speed internet access will open doors of opportunity for economic development, virtual education, and telehealth options. Not only will the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program assist in the recruitment of new industry, it will make existing businesses more competitive.

The company worked diligently and efficiently to deploy fiber-based broadband infrastructure using prior CARES funding. If awarded a grant through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program, I am confident Comporium will build on its previous success in rapid broadband deployment.

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of the citizens of Lancaster, Kershaw, and Chester Counties.

Sincerely,



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress, SC-05

MICHAEL JOHNSON
SENATOR, LANCASTER AND YORK COUNTIES
SENATORIAL DISTRICT 16

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
CORRECTIONS AND PENOLOGY
FAMILY & VETERANS' SERVICES
FISH, GAME AND FORESTRY
JUDICIARY



COLUMBIA ADDRESS:
602 GRESSETTE SENATE BLDG
POST OFFICE BOX 142
COLUMBIA, SC 29202
TEL: (803) 212-6008
FAX: (803) 212-6299
EMAIL: MICHAELJOHNSON@SCSENATE.GOV

HOME ADDRESS:
1201 CAROLINA PLACE, SUITE 103
FORT MILL, SC 29708

April 27, 2021

Mr. Jim Stritzinger
Broadband Coordinator at SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Mr. Stritzinger:

By way of this correspondence, I am writing today to support Comporium Communications in its efforts to obtain South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant funding within Lancaster County. Many underserved locations are difficult to reach due to the rural nature of our county. Individuals and businesses in such areas will greatly benefit from high-speed fiber technology. In an effort to assist the constituents in my area, high-speed internet access will open doors of opportunity for economic development, virtual education, and telehealth options.

Having fiber-based broadband access will make Lancaster County more attractive to industry and facilitate economic development. The South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program will assist in the recruitment of new industry and make existing businesses more competitive.

It is my understanding that Comporium has served Lancaster County since 1898 and has worked diligently and efficiently to deploy fiber-based broadband infrastructure using prior CARES funding. If awarded a grant through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program, I am confident that Comporium will build on its previous success in rapid broadband deployment. I am pleased to write this letter, and I am thanking you in advance for your consideration. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Johnson".

Michael Johnson
Senator

MJ/dc

Brandon Michael Newton
District No. 45 - Lancaster and
York Counties
Lancaster County Delegation,
Chairman
P. O. Box 2501
Lancaster, SC 29721



404-D Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29201

Tel. (803) 212-6874
BrandonNewton@schouse.gov

Committees:
Judiciary
Rules

House of Representatives
State of South Carolina

April 27, 2021

Mr. Jim Stritzinger
Broadband Coordinator at SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
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I am writing today to support Comporium Communications in its efforts to obtain South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant funding within Lancaster County.

Many underserved locations are difficult to reach due to the rural nature of our county. Individuals and businesses in such areas will greatly benefit from high-speed fiber technology. High-speed internet access will open doors of opportunity for economic development, virtual education, and telehealth options.

Fiber-based broadband access will make Lancaster County more attractive to industry and facilitate economic development. Not only will the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program assist in the recruitment of new industry, it will make existing businesses more competitive.

Comporium has served Lancaster County since 1898. The company worked diligently and efficiently to deploy fiber-based broadband infrastructure using prior CARES funding. If awarded a grant through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program, I am confident that Comporium will build on its previous success in rapid broadband deployment.

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of the citizens of Lancaster County.

Sincerely,

Brandon Newton

Sandy McGarry
District No. 44 - Lancaster County



404-A Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29201

Tel. (803) 212-6937
sandymcgarry@schouse.gov

Committee:
Medical, Military, Public and
Municipal Affairs
Regulations and Administrative
Procedures

House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

May 6, 2021

Mr. Jim Stritzinger
Broadband Coordinator at SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Mr. Stritzinger:

I concur with Representative Newton in his support of Comporium Communications in its efforts to obtain South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant funding within Lancaster County.


Many underserved locations are difficult to reach due to the rural nature of our county. Individuals and businesses in such areas will greatly benefit from high-speed fiber technology. High-speed internet access will open doors of opportunity for economic development, virtual education, and telehealth options.

Fiber-based broadband access will make Lancaster County more attractive to industry and facilitate economic development. Not only will the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program assist in the recruitment of new industry, it will make existing businesses more competitive.

Comporium has served Lancaster County since 1898. The company worked diligently and efficiently to deploy fiber-based broadband infrastructure using prior CARES funding. If awarded a grant through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program, I am confident that Comporium will build on its previous success in rapid broadband deployment.

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of the citizens of Lancaster Count and in the very rural District I serve.

Sincerely,


Sandy McGarry

Lancaster County

WHERE BUSINESS IS GOLDEN

April 27, 2021

Mr. Jim Stritzinger
Broadband Coordinator at SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Mr. Stritzinger:

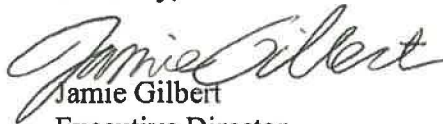
I am writing today to support Comporium Communications in its efforts to obtain South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant funding within Lancaster County.

Many underserved locations are difficult to reach due to the rural nature of our county. Individuals and businesses in such areas will greatly benefit from high-speed fiber technology. High-speed internet access will open doors of opportunity for economic development, virtual education, and telehealth options.

Fiber-based broadband access will make Lancaster County more attractive to industry and facilitate economic development. Not only will the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program assist in the recruitment of new industry, it will make existing businesses more competitive.

Comporium has served Lancaster County since 1898. The company worked diligently and efficiently to deploy fiber-based broadband infrastructure using prior CARES funding. If awarded a grant through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program, I am confident that Comporium will build on its previous success in rapid broadband deployment. Thank you for your consideration on behalf of the citizens of Lancaster County.

Sincerely,


Jamie Gilbert
Executive Director

Lancaster County Department of Economic Development
1033 West Meeting Street, P.O. Box 1809, Lancaster, SC 29721
803-286-3603 (Phone) 803-288-4324 (Mobile)
jgilbert@lancastercountysc.net
www.lcded.com





May 3, 2021

Mr. Jim Stritzinger
Broadband Coordinator at SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Mr. Stritzinger:

I am writing today to support Comporium Communications in its efforts to obtain South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant funding within Lancaster County.

Many underserved locations are difficult to reach due to the rural nature of our county. Individuals and businesses in such areas will greatly benefit from high-speed fiber technology. High-speed internet access will open doors of opportunity for economic development, virtual education, and telehealth options.

Fiber-based broadband access will make Lancaster County more attractive to industry and facilitate economic development. Not only will the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program assist in the recruitment of new industry, it will make existing businesses more competitive.

Comporium has served Lancaster County since 1898. The company worked diligently and efficiently to deploy fiber-based broadband infrastructure using prior CARES funding. If awarded a grant through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program, I am confident that Comporium will build on its previous success in rapid broadband deployment.

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of the citizens of Lancaster County. With kindest regards,
I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Willis".

Steve Willis
County Administrator

SW/

cc: *Steve Harper, Chairman, County Council*
Jamie Gilbert, Director of Economic Development



April 27, 2021

Mr. Jim Stritzinger
Broadband Coordinator at SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Mr. Stritzinger:

I am writing today to support Comporium Communications in its efforts to obtain South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant funding within Lancaster County.

Many underserved locations are difficult to reach due to the rural nature of our county. Individuals and businesses in such areas will greatly benefit from high-speed fiber technology. High-speed internet access will open doors of opportunity for economic development, virtual education, and telehealth options.

Fiber-based broadband access will make Lancaster County more attractive to industry and facilitate economic development. Not only will the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program assist in the recruitment of new industry, it will make existing businesses more competitive.

Comporium has served Lancaster County since 1898. The company worked diligently and efficiently to deploy fiber-based broadband infrastructure using prior CARES funding. If awarded a grant through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program, I am confident that Comporium will build on its previous success in rapid broadband deployment.

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of the citizens of Lancaster County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Phipps". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Phipps
Superintendent
Lancaster County School District



Lancaster County
Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Barry S. Faile

May 7, 2021

Mr. Jim Stritzinger
Broadband Coordinator at SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Mr. Stritzinger:

I fully support Comporium Communications in its efforts to obtain South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant funding within Lancaster County.

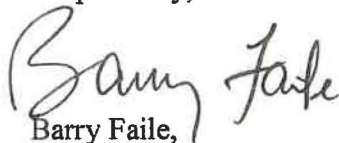
There are many underserved locations within Lancaster County, which are difficult to reach due to the rural nature of our county. Individuals and businesses in these areas will greatly benefit from high-speed fiber technology. High-speed internet access will open doors of opportunity for economic development, virtual education, and telehealth options.

Fiber-based broadband access will make Lancaster County more attractive to industry and facilitate economic development. Not only will the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program assist in the recruitment of new industry, it will make existing businesses more competitive.

Comporium has served Lancaster County since 1898. The company worked diligently and efficiently to deploy fiber-based broadband infrastructure using prior CARES funding. If awarded a grant through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program, I am confident that Comporium will build on its previous success in rapid broadband deployment.

I want to thank you for your consideration on behalf of the citizens of Lancaster County.

Respectfully,


Barry Faile,
Sheriff



P.O. Box 908 • Lancaster, South Carolina 29721
1520 Pageland Highway • Lancaster, South Carolina 29720
Phone: (803) 283-3388 • Fax: (877)-636-7980
Web address: www.lacoso.net



Lancaster Medical Center

April 30, 2021

Mr. Jim Stritzinger
Broadband Coordinator at SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Mr. Stritzinger:

I am writing today to support Comporium Communications in its efforts to obtain South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant funding within Lancaster County.

Many underserved locations are difficult to reach due to the rural nature of our county. Individuals and businesses in such areas will greatly benefit from high-speed fiber technology. High-speed internet access will open doors of opportunity for economic development, virtual education, and telehealth options.

Fiber-based broadband access will make Lancaster County more attractive to industry and facilitate economic development. Not only will the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program assist in the recruitment of new industry, it will make existing businesses more competitive.

Comporium has served Lancaster County since 1898. The company worked diligently and efficiently to deploy fiber-based broadband infrastructure using prior CARES funding. If awarded a grant through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program, I am confident that Comporium will build on its previous success in rapid broadband deployment.

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of the citizens of Lancaster Count and the MUSC Health – Lancaster / Chester Division.

Sincerely,

Ashley N. Shannon
Marketing & Community Relations Director
MUSC Health – Lancaster/Chester Division
800 West Meeting Street
Lancaster, SC 29720



UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina
LANCASTER

Office of the Dean

April 27, 2021

Mr. Jim Stritzinger
Broadband Coordinator at SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Mr. Stritzinger:

I am writing today to support Comporium Communications in its efforts to obtain South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant funding within Lancaster County.

Many underserved locations are difficult to reach due to the rural nature of our county. Individuals and businesses in such areas will greatly benefit from high-speed fiber technology. High-speed internet access will open doors of opportunity for economic development, virtual education, and telehealth options.

Fiber-based broadband access will make Lancaster County more attractive to industry and facilitate economic development. Not only will the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program assist in the recruitment of new industry, it will make existing businesses more competitive. Similarly, students in K-12 and college settings will greatly benefit from this broadband expansion.

Comporium has served Lancaster County since 1898. The company worked diligently and efficiently to deploy fiber-based broadband infrastructure using prior CARES funding. If awarded a grant through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program, I am confident that Comporium will build on its previous success in rapid broadband deployment.

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of the citizens of Lancaster County.

Sincerely,



Walter P. Collins, III, Ph.D.
Regional Palmetto College Dean
collinsw@sc.edu | (803) 313-7001

Post Office Box 889 • Lancaster, South Carolina 29720 • 803-313-7000 • sc.edu/lancaster
An Equal Opportunity Institution

DIGITAL DOCUMENT

Sandy McGarry
District No. 44 - Lancaster County



404-A Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29201

Tel. (803) 212-6937
sandymcgarry@schouse.gov

Committee:
Medical, Military, Public and
Municipal Affairs
Regulations and Administrative
Procedures

House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

May 6, 2021

Mr. Jim Stritzinger
Broadband Coordinator at SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Mr. Stritzinger:

I concur with Representative Newton in his support of Comporium Communications in its efforts to obtain South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant funding within Lancaster County.

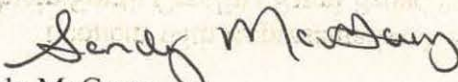
Many underserved locations are difficult to reach due to the rural nature of our county. Individuals and businesses in such areas will greatly benefit from high-speed fiber technology. High-speed internet access will open doors of opportunity for economic development, virtual education, and telehealth options.

Fiber-based broadband access will make Lancaster County more attractive to industry and facilitate economic development. Not only will the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program assist in the recruitment of new industry, it will make existing businesses more competitive.

Comporium has served Lancaster County since 1898. The company worked diligently and efficiently to deploy fiber-based broadband infrastructure using prior CARES funding. If awarded a grant through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program, I am confident that Comporium will build on its previous success in rapid broadband deployment.

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of the citizens of Lancaster County and in the very rural District I serve.

Sincerely,


Sandy McGarry

Brandon Michael Newton
District No. 45 - Lancaster and
York Counties
Lancaster County Delegation,
Chairman
P. O. Box 2501
Lancaster, SC 29721



404-D Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29201

Tel. (803) 212-6874
BrandonNewton@schouse.gov

Committees:
Judiciary
Rules

House of Representatives
State of South Carolina

April 27, 2021

Mr. Jim Stritzinger
Broadband Coordinator at SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Mr. Stritzinger:

I am writing today to support Comporium Communications in its efforts to obtain South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant funding within Lancaster County.

Many underserved locations are difficult to reach due to the rural nature of our county. Individuals and businesses in such areas will greatly benefit from high-speed fiber technology. High-speed internet access will open doors of opportunity for economic development, virtual education, and telehealth options.

Fiber-based broadband access will make Lancaster County more attractive to industry and facilitate economic development. Not only will the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program assist in the recruitment of new industry, it will make existing businesses more competitive.

Comporium has served Lancaster County since 1898. The company worked diligently and efficiently to deploy fiber-based broadband infrastructure using prior CARES funding. If awarded a grant through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program, I am confident that Comporium will build on its previous success in rapid broadband deployment.

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of the citizens of Lancaster County.

Sincerely,

Brandon Newton

TOWN OF KERSHAW

*Continued Progress,
A Goal*



*Community Pride,
A Reality*

April 27, 2021

Mr. Jim Stritzinger
Broadband Coordinator at SC Office of Regulatory Staff
1401 Main Street, Suite 900
Columbia, SC 29201

Mr. Stritzinger:

I am writing today to support Comporium Communications in its efforts to obtain South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant funding within Lancaster County, especially within the greater community of the Town of Kershaw.

Many underserved locations like the area surrounding the Town of Kershaw are difficult to reach due to the rural nature of our community. Individuals and businesses in such areas will greatly benefit from high-speed fiber technology. High-speed internet access will open doors of opportunity for economic development, virtual education, and telehealth options.

Fiber-based broadband access will make Lancaster County and the Town of Kershaw more attractive to industry and facilitate economic development. Not only will the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program assist in the recruitment of new industry, it will make existing businesses more competitive.

Comporium has served Lancaster County since 1898 and the Town of Kershaw since 1990. The company worked diligently and efficiently to deploy fiber-based broadband infrastructure using prior CARES funding. If awarded a grant through the South Carolina Rural Broadband Grant Program, I am confident that Comporium will build on its previous success in rapid broadband deployment.

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of the citizens of Lancaster County and the Town of Kershaw.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mitch Lucas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mitch Lucas

Town Administrator