

2 June 2022



Alaska USDA Rural Development
Socially-Disadvantaged Groups Grant (SDGG)
800 East Palmer-Wasilla Hwy, Suite 201
Palmer, AK 99645-6539

**RE: *City of Dillingham Letter of Support for
BBNA Project: Bristol Bay Broadband Technical Assistance***

Members of the Application Review Committee,

As Mayor of the City of Dillingham, I am writing to express our support for the Bristol Bay Native Association's (BBNA) Bristol Bay Broadband Technical Assistance Project and their request for USDA Rural Development Socially-Disadvantaged Groups Grant (SDGG) funding.

BBNA proposes to provide technical assistance to 31 Bristol Bay area Tribes in their efforts to develop a reliable and affordable broadband network for the region. This collaborative effort would not only provide technical assistance to navigate the processes necessary to bring broadband to these communities, but also help ensure that the money invested by the USDA, and others, is effectively directed to bring about the greatest benefit for all parties involved.

As a regional hub-community, Dillingham is home to a number of Local, Tribal, State and Federal governments and agencies. Having access to a reliable and accessible broadband network will not only provide the people who live, visit and work in this region access to a greater selection of educational, vocational and ecommerce activities, but also allow the aforementioned governments & agencies a way to expand their delivery of services to our citizens and clients.

Existing internet options are limited, unreliable and not available in many areas. Upload and download speeds are also very slow. A broadband network in this area of Alaska will help connect these remote, rural, disadvantaged communities with the global network of resources and opportunities already available to the vast majority of Americans.

BBNA is a proven partner and we are confident that they will carry out the responsibilities described in their application, as promised. The City of Dillingham will also do what we can to assist and supplement their efforts.

I look forward to your favorable consideration of the BBNA proposal and remain available provide additional information or answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alice Ruby", written over a white background.

Alice Ruby, Mayor
City of Dillingham, Alaska