

**RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 2022-56**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS OF LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
SUPPORTING CENTRAL FLORIDA ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE'S PLAN FOR FIBER-TO-THE-HOME  
BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICE AND SMART-GRID  
NETWORK.**

**WHEREAS**, as recognized by the Board in Resolution Number 2022-18 adopted April 5, 2022, access to reliable and affordable high-speed internet service is increasingly necessary for Floridians to be prosperous and meet today's challenges in education, remote work, healthcare services, and more; and

**WHEREAS**, affordable broadband internet service is not readily available in rural and low-income communities and may prevent those communities from achieving educational and economic success; and

**WHEREAS**, broadband internet service has not been readily available in those communities due to the high cost of building the necessary infrastructure across sparsely populated areas; and

**WHEREAS**, internet providers have been reluctant to invest in order to provide the necessary broadband services to rural communities at an affordable cost; and

**WHEREAS**, with the support of federal, state, and local governments, electric utilities could increase the capacity of their fiber networks to accommodate future broadband expansion; and

**WHEREAS**, electric cooperatives, like Central Florida Electric Cooperative, are equipped with the necessary existing infrastructure to construct their own fiber networks to improve the reliability and capabilities of the electric grid and provide fast, reliable Fiber-to-the-Home internet service; and

**WHEREAS**, electric cooperatives are uniquely qualified to help expand broadband access for rural communities given their existing infrastructure, history, and experience bringing electricity to thousands of rural homes and businesses for over 80 years.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Levy County, Florida, that:

1. The Board supports Central Florida Electric Cooperative in its plan to construct a fiber network across its existing distribution system to modernize the electric grid and provide broadband internet service to the citizens of Levy County; and

2. The Board will advocate at the federal, state, and local levels for public funding used for broadband infrastructure to be directed to rural electric utilities that are prioritizing the buildout of fiber-optic technology to rural communities.

**DULY ADOPTED** on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2022.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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Russell Meeks Jr., Chairman

**ATTEST:**  
Clerk of the Circuit Court and  
Ex Officio to the Board

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Danny J. Shipp

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency

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Nicolle M. Shalley, County Attorney