

## LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Government Serving Citizens Jol

RS COMMISSIONERS
John Meeks, Vice Chair
Rock Meeks, Chair
Desiree Mills
Tim Hodge
Matt Brooks

November 22, 2022

Re: Letter of Support for Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Levy County Board of County Commissioners, I would like to express our commitment to the project described in Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s proposal for the Broadband Middle Mile Grant. Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc., proposal will allow for our local rural communities throughout Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist Counties to have access to high-speed broadband connectivity, which it currently lacks. The past two years has exemplified the fact that access to broadband is not a luxury, but a necessary utility, much like water and electricity. Whether it is a child trying to complete homework, a patient trying to access telehealth resources or an employee working remotely from home, this deficiency of critical infrastructure results in a continued hardship for our citizens.

Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc., is a member driven organization with a mission that includes excellent service, competitive rates, and concern for the consumer, community and environment that guide our every action. Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc., is dedicated to providing a fiber-based network that will bring much-needed affordable access to high-speed internet to 100 percent or our members. This project is a continuation of the commitment that Central Florida Electric Cooperative Inc., first made 80 years ago to improve the lives and communities of those it serves – then with electricity, now with broadband.

This proposed project presents an opportunity for the citizens of our communities to be able to fully participate in a vital aspect of everyday life.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our support for Central Florida Electric Cooperative, Inc's grant application. Please do not hesitate to contact my office, should you have any questions or if we might be able to offer additional support during your review process.

Respectfully,

Russell Meeks Jr., Chairman Levy County Board of County Commissioners.