

CITY LETTERHEAD

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board
c/o Ramón S. Hobdey-Sánchez, J.D.
State Broadband Program Manager
Idaho Department of Commerce
700 W. State Street, Boise, Idaho 83702

Monday, June 12, 2023

Re: New Meadows – Rural Broadband Grant
AirBridge Broadband Letter of Support

Dear Idaho Broadband Advisory Board:

This letter supports AirBridge Broadband's broadband grant application for the rural areas around New Meadows.

If approved, this project will bring true broadband internet (100 Mbps / 100 Mbps) to homes and businesses in the greater New Meadows area.

Historically, rural areas around New Meadows have faced a number of challenges that has prevented its businesses and residents from enjoying the same level of internet access that folks in urban areas of the State enjoy. Key among these challenges include lack of population base (approximately 691 locations spread over roughly 40 square miles), difficult topography, and lack of economic incentives (potential for profitability) necessary to incentivize traditional internet providers to willingly invest in building out internet infrastructure in rural areas of New Meadows.

Despite these challenges, our residents in rural areas of New Meadows valley still have the same needs as those in larger urban markets that currently have access to quality broadband internet. Our residents still require access to healthcare (telehealth), our residents still have needs to expand their learning (online learning), and our residents still have needs to provide for their families (work from home). In addition, there would be significant benefits to our rural residents with respect to emergency services / emergency communication if this project were to be approved.

For these reasons we strongly support AirBridge Broadband's grant application. Having this grant approved would make all the difference for those living in the rural areas of New Meadows valley.

Sincerely,

Julie Good
Mayor of New Meadows