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Dear Governor Little,

As a small town in the west central mountains of Idaho, we are grateful for the attention you give to the rural challenges we face. We are seeing an overwhelming demand for high quality, affordable, reliable internet in our area. The lack of service, and the instability of existing service, has an enormous impact on our community in so many ways including healthcare access, educational access and impacts on the local economy.

We are writing to encourage you to work with the legislature in the 2021 session to achieve outcomes that will help us to operate as a thriving, growing community. We need funding resources that will allow us to determine our own broadband future. Currently the level of service outcomes is left to existing providers who remain unaware and unsympathetic to our unique challenges. We should have the ability to perform unbiased feasibility analyses to determine our options and determine a path forward in a proactive manner.

We recognize and are grateful for the work in our region being done by Ziplly and Sparklight, as well as the processes explored by your Broadband Task Force, but we are constantly confronted with the reality that their business bottom line does not align with the real and immediate needs of our community.

We need to be given the option to build an infrastructure that accounts not just for our base population, but also the visitor/weekend/seasonal population. When a large group of Meadows Valley homeowners return to Boise after each weekend because they do not have adequate internet service to work from home throughout the week, it results in a huge impact on our community. Our current lack of a local grocery store is just one of the economic disadvantages the broadband crisis has sustained. Additionally, when an influx of visitors arrive over the weekend, broadband access plummets to accommodate those visiting, which leaves locals without critical access. This is a major economic and

community detriment. The current 10/1 and 25/3 standards should not apply to resort regions like ours and we would like to see this reflected in statewide policy.

We have seen no indication that area incumbents are willing to step and provide more and better access to low density areas like ours, even though they may have access to funding from federal and other sources. We would encourage the state to create a platform that encourages competition while equipping communities with the tools to define their own broadband future.

Thank you for your consideration of the needs of our community.

New Meadow Mayor and City Council

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