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May 7, 2025

Oregon Broadband Office  
775 Summer St. NE, Suite 200  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Letter of Support – BEAD Program Application**

Dear Oregon Broadband Office,

On behalf of the City of St. Helens, we are writing to express our support for the BEAD Program funding application submitted by RSG Telecom.

The Columbia County-led project brings an experienced network operator, RSG Telecom, to build, operate, and maintain an open-access broadband network that will serve the unserved and underserved locations in the county. The open access model offers user choice and greater competition, which helps keep the service affordable, and allows incumbent providers the opportunity to participate, if they choose.

As a community-owned network, public grant dollars will fund publicly owned infrastructure, rather than subsidizing private profits. This is a smart, flexible approach that brings economic development opportunities and maximizes our community's input into our digital future, while allowing free enterprise to participate and thrive.

We believe this project will provide:

- Local ownership – keeping control of our digital future in community hands
- A non-profit model – focused on public benefit, not private profit
- A countywide coverage goal – working to reach every household
- Open network access – giving residents more choices and better service
- Support for economic growth – helping businesses, remote workers, students, and healthcare providers get connected

- Responsible public investment – using grant funds to build lasting, community-owned infrastructure

For these reasons, the City of St. Helens is proud to support RSG Telecom's application to the Oregon Broadband Office for BEAD Program funding.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Massey, Mayor  
City of St. Helens