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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,

The City of St. Helens is pleased to support Astound Broadband in their application for funding through Oregon's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program to help close the digital divide for unserved and underserved communities in St. Helens.

Astound has maintained a longstanding relationship with the communities in Oregon. Over the years, they have collaborated with local governments, schools, and businesses to provide dependable internet services and foster community development. The proposed BEAD project will deliver significant benefits, including:

- Enhanced educational opportunities for students and educators in the St. Helens School District boundary
- Improved access to telehealth, remote work, and digital government services
- Increased economic development potential for local businesses and entrepreneurs
- Reliable, affordable high-speed internet for households currently lacking adequate service

St. Helens' vision is to be, "An equitable community that is walkable, healthy, and accessible for everyone." The provision of dependable and accessible internet services for all community members aligns with our vision.

If funded, Astound would expand high-speed, reliable internet access within the St. Helens School District boundary and surrounding areas to serve broadband services to those households who are currently unserved or underserved.

For these reasons and the reasons mentioned above, the City of St. Helens supports Astound's application for BEAD Program funding.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Massey, Mayor
City of St. Helens