[Insert Letterhead]

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and

NTIA Administrator

National Telecommunications & Information Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20230

[Insert date]

Re: Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program: Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission – “A Southwestern Pennsylvania Partnership to Bridge Middle Mile Connections”

Dear Assistant Secretary Davidson:

On behalf of [school/higher education institution], I am pleased to support the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission’s (SPC) application to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s (NTIA) Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program (MMGP). The *Southwestern Pennsylvania Partnership to Bridge Middle Mile Connections* is a collaborative effort between SPC, local governments, community organizations, and private fiber optic infrastructure owners to expand and extend middle mile infrastructure, reducing the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas to the internet backbone across southwestern Pennsylvania.

SPC is pursuing the NTIA MMGP in order to construct, improve, and provide redundancy to various middle mile fiber locations with the goal of providing affordable high-speed internet to underserved and unserved areas in southwestern Pennsylvania. The MMGP proposal has the potential to serve thousands of homes, schools, and businesses across the region to expand educational, health service, economic, and public safety opportunities.

[Describe something specific to your current internet situation…challenges, experiences or needs. Specific examples of difficulty with online education from home or school. Have you had problems communicating with students or staff during the pandemic? Would like to be able to download educational materials or Facetime/Skype in your classroom?].

As a [school/higher education institution] within the SPC region, we fully support this MMGP application which represents a cooperative and deliverable effort to reduce the cost of high-speed internet, connect unserved and underserved organizations like ours, and serve priority area groups, all key objectives of the MMGP.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

[Insert signature]