AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item:

Action Requested: Board of County Commissioners' Signature

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins: **Term Ends:** **Grant Contract #:**

Summary:

BOCC letter of support for Marble broadband

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Liz Mense **Submitter's Email Address:** EMense@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by: Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review: ○ Required ◉ Not Required

Comments:

Reveiwed by: Discharge Date: Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes ○ No ○

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirnie Discharge Date: 5/29/2020

◉ Consent Agenda ○ Regular Agenda ○ Worksession Time Allotted: 0

Agenda Date: 6/2/2020

Revised April 2015

June 2, 2020

Colorado Broadband Deployment Board

Re: Visionary Broadband Grant Application

Dear Members of the Colorado Broadband Deployment Board,

The Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners supports Visionary Broadband's application for grant funding with the State High cost Support Mechanism. We back this application, as it will support and enhance Visionary's existing network in our region and will contribute to the continued expansion of an advanced network in the surrounding areas.

We welcome efforts from Visionary to improve or expand services in our area. The planned expansion of broadband and communication services is long overdue in bringing adequate services to our unserved and underserved people. Many of our area's households and businesses have far less than the FCC-defined, minimum broadband service of 25Mbps download and 3Mbps upload, and many have no access to service – at all. The availability of Visionary providing services at or above the FCC definition, at affordable rates, will have an enormous impact in terms of economic benefit, and also in bringing broadband to our underserved area.

Advanced broadband services will enable further efforts for improving education for our students, allowing them to do homework and research in the best environment. It will also allow many of our residents who do any work out of their home to stay in the area and run or be a part of a 21st- century business.

While we value our current service providers in the region, we recognize that our area will never create the return-on-investment needed by these companies as they exist currently to provide broadband service to the minimum defined levels. We are confident; however, that the construction of an advanced network by Visionary Broadband in the region will provide long-term solutions to our connectivity issues, economic, and educational challenges.

We support Visionary's application for grant funding, and we hope that the committee looks favorably upon this request.

Best Regards,

Jonathan Houck, Chairperson	John Messner, Commissioner	Roland Mason, Commissioner