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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

FIFTH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

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MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS

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March 12, 2020

The Honorable Sonny Perdue  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

The Saline County Commission in Marshall, Missouri is working to address the need for broadband, fiber optic internet to the folks in rural Saline County located in my Fifth Congressional District. As you are aware, quality high speed internet services are needed in rural Missouri. USDA's ReConnect Program will help Saline County achieve their goal.

Saline County, Missouri along with Marshall Municipal Utilities (MMU) are working together to bring broadband, fiber optic internet, to rural areas of Saline County. Starting from a two-mile radius outside of Marshall City limits, MMU has engineered several project areas that will serve over 1311 buildings that include approximately 3379 farms and properties that would allow for broadband coverage of most of Saline County's rural area. The group is asking for \$10 million in ReConnect funding for the project. This economic development infrastructure will allow home-based businesses to operate efficiently over the internet. This will also allow agriculture industry to buy and sell over the internet, gather important agricultural information, plant and harvest with the latest technology. The speed of this service will be faster than 100 megabits per second upload and 100 megabits per second download and the price per household will be affordable.

The Saline County Commission is working tirelessly to bring fiber optic internet to all the people in Saline County, so they are able to stay ahead of the curve. I hope you will consider favorably the Commission and MMU application to the ReConnect 100 percent grant program. If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Kyle Wilkens of my staff at (660) 584-7373 or [kyle.wilkens@mail.house.gov](mailto:kyle.wilkens@mail.house.gov).

Warmest regards,

Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress

EC: kw

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