



November 27, 2024

Tamarah Holmes, Ph.D.
Director Office of Broadband
Department of Housing and Community Development
600 East Main Street, Ste 300
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Dr. Holmes:

Aristotle Unified Communications Inc (“Aristotle”) is providing this Letter of Intent to notify the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development of Aristotle’s intent to submit an application for the Virginia Broadband Equity and Deployment (BEAD) program. The counties and cities for which Aristotle may submit an application are listed in the attachment to this letter, which Aristotle respectfully requests be exempt from the Freedom of Information Act.

Aristotle is an Arkansas corporation certified to conduct business in Virginia. Since 2010, Aristotle has provided high-speed connectivity to unserved, and underserved communities. Aristotle’s primary focus has been delivering broadband connectivity to those with the greatest need, particularly those in rural and persistent poverty counties. Aristotle’s network utilizes a hybrid combination of fiber and fixed wireless technologies to deliver broadband internet access through the most efficient means, taking into account topography, economics, affordability to the customer, speed to market, and the specific needs of the community being served.

Aristotle is the recipient of funds through the Connect American Fund Phase II Auction (CAF II), the Rural Development Opportunity Fund (RDOF), and the CARES Act and has a track record of efficient deployment. In August-November of 2020, the Arkansas Rural Connect program awarded Aristotle 15 grants totaling \$31 million in CARES Act funds to deploy a hybrid fiber/fixed wireless broadband network to 9 counties and 5 cities in the Arkansas Delta. Aristotle completed its CARES Act build in less than 12 months, launching its first grant-supported network in February of 2021 and its last CARES-funded project in October of 2021. Aristotle’s network now covers 14 counties and over 33,000 homes, businesses, farms, and community anchor institutions in Arkansas, and Aristotle is actively expanding its network to serve communities in Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Illinois.

Aristotle’s CEO, Elizabeth Bowles, has always been an active advocate for the needs of un- and underserved communities and has held numerous leadership positions. From 2017-2021, she served as the Chair of the FCC’s Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC), an advisory body charged with making policy recommendations for eliminating the

Dr. Tamarah Holmes

November 27, 2024

Page 2 of 2

digital divide. Ms. Bowles' commitment to bring broadband to historically overlooked communities has framed Aristotle's mission to deliver broadband services where they are most needed, and the company remains committed to ensuring every location has access to affordable broadband regardless of demographics or zip code.

In addition to providing broadband to consumers and businesses throughout its service area, Aristotle also provides both primary and back-up connectivity to school districts, municipal buildings, prisons, and fire and police departments. Aristotle provides free Wi-Fi zones for community use, private networks for schools, and public Wi-Fi for the Delta Heritage Trail, which is a multi-mile bike trail along the Mississippi River. In addition to broadband, Aristotle provides back-up LTE and 5G enabled connectivity, Voice over IP Telephony, and enhanced security for in-home and business networks.

Aristotle understands that this Letter of Intent is required in order to submit an application in the Virginia BEAD program. Aristotle also understands that while it will not be required to submit an application in all counties and cities listed in this letter of intent process, it may not submit applications in counties or cities not listed on the attachment to this letter of intent.

Please let the undersigned know if you have any questions or need anything further.

Sincerely,



L. Elizabeth Bowles, CEO

//Attachment

ARISTOTLE UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS INC

Attachment to Letter of Intent

Counties

Bedford

Carroll

Grayson

Halifax

Madison

Orange

Rappahannock

Rockingham

Spotsylvania

Warren

Westmoreland

Cities

Fredericksburg

Galax

Harrisonburg