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Harkin Announces Over \$90 Million to Improve and Expand Broadband Internet in Iowa

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) today announced that a total of \$90,081,627 in grants and loans from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will be coming to Iowa for broadband internet projects. Recovery Act broadband projects are intended to create construction jobs and to improve broadband services, which are important to economic development, particularly in rural areas. The funds also generate private investment.

“Having access to broadband internet is an essential tool for businesses – both urban and rural - to stay competitive and hire Iowans. It is also a needed utility for hospitals to operate, residents to stay in touch and for our workforce to stay competitive,” said Harkin. “Today’s funding will create immediate jobs to complete these projects and will help lay the foundation for future economic growth and prosperity.”

\$33.9 million of today’s funding is administered through the Department of Commerce and \$56,181,627 through the Department of Agriculture. This funding will also be matched with an additional \$24.8 million in private investment. Harkin is a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, which wrote the Recovery Act. He specifically worked to allocate funding to the Department of Agriculture, which is more likely to fund projects in small towns and rural areas.

Details of the funding follow:

- Iowa Communications Network will receive a \$16.2 million grant from the Department of Commerce with an additional \$7.6 million applicant-provided match to upgrade an existing 3,000-mile network with direct high-speed connections for thousands of community institutions. Iowa Communications Network’s project stands to benefit over 4,500 community institutions. Of the 99 counties in the state, 17 are economically distressed and will be served by this project

- Iowa Health System will receive a \$17.7 million grant from the Department of Commerce with an additional \$9.9 million

applicant-provided match to upgrade and enhance the health system’s existing fiber network that provides connections to over 200 healthcare facilities. In addition, the funding will facilitate more access to broadband service for residents and businesses statewide. High quality broadband is very useful for the moving of medically important data.

- The Farmers’ Telephone Company of Riceville will receive a \$9,367,926 loan and \$9,367,927 grant from USDA and \$4,683,963 in private investment to construct a fiber-to-the-premises network, allowing Farmers Telephone Company to provide greater than 20Mbps broadband access in the exchange areas of Little Cedar, New Haven, Plymouth, Riceville, Marble Rock, Greene, St. Ansgar and Stacyville, Iowa.

- Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation will receive a \$2,788,293 loan and \$6,506,016 grant from USDA. The funding will provide broadband service to the towns of Lorimor, Murray, and Thayer, Iowa, and their surrounding rural areas via a fiber-to-the-home network.

- Ellsworth Cooperative Telephone Association will receive a \$1,580,609 loan and \$3,688,087 grant from USDA. The Ellsworth Fiber-to-the-Home Broadband Deployment Project will provide high speed Internet service in the communities of Ellsworth and Garden City, Iowa, and their surrounding rural areas via a fiber-to-the-home network.

- Breda Telephone Corp. will receive a \$783,572 loan, \$1,828,337 grant from USDA and \$2,611,909 in private investment from USDA. This project will allow high speed Internet and video services to reach all of the customers in the Breda and Lidderdale exchanges, in addition to their present landline phone services.

- Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation will receive a \$6,081,258 loan and \$14,189,603 grant from USDA. The funding will provide broadband service to the towns of Corydon, Millerton, Allerton, and Lineville, IA, and Powersville, Mo., and their surrounding rural areas.

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From Page:
3
7/8/2010
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