

BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2025 - 4

**Resolution of Formal Endorsement for Brightspeed, DBA, Connect Holding II LLC,
To Assist in Obtaining the Wisconsin Public Service Commission's Broadband
Equity, Access & Development (BEAD) Program**

TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1 **WHEREAS**, it is the Barron County Board of Supervisors' understanding that
2 Brightspeed, DBA, Connect Holding II LLC, is requesting the County's support for the
3 Wisconsin Public Service Commission's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment
4 (BEAD) program for broadband infrastructure for the underserved and unserved
5 households and businesses within Barron County; and
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7 **WHEREAS**, Brightspeed, DBA, Connect Holding II LLC, has represented to the
8 Barron County Board of Supervisors that it proposes to support technology needs by
9 expanding broadband capability to reach unserved or underserved residents and businesses
10 within Barron County where such service is currently unavailable or prohibitively
11 expensive; and
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13 **WHEREAS**, Kelly Shipley is the Government Affairs and Public Policy Director
14 for Brightspeed, DBA, Connect Holding II LLC, and that he has represented to the Barron
15 County Executive Committee on January 8th, 2025, the intentions of Brightspeed to apply
16 for a Wisconsin Public Service Commission's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment
17 (BEAD) program for broadband infrastructure for the underserved and unserved
18 households and businesses within Barron County; and
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20 **WHEREAS**, attached to this Resolution is a twelve (12) page PowerPoint
21 Presentation which provides additional details pertaining to this endorsement request, and
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23 **WHEREAS**, the Barron County Board of Supervisors has not investigated or
24 confirmed the representations made by Brightspeed, DBA, Connect Holding II LLC; and
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26 **WHEREAS**, it is the Barron County Board of Supervisors' understanding
27 Brightspeed, DBA, Connect Holding II LLC, is seeking a formal endorsement to assist in
28 the BEAD program deeming Brightspeed, DBA, Connect Holding II LLC, as a collaborator
29 in broadband construction and infrastructure; and
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31 **WHEREAS**, it is the Barron County Board of Supervisors' understanding the PSC
32 BEAD grant requests a Letter of Endorsement to support Brightspeed, DBA, Connect
33 Holding II LLC, application to provide broadband infrastructure access to all remaining
34 Barron County areas deemed unserved and underserved by PSC's Broadband Map; and

35 **WHEREAS**, it is the Barron County Board of Supervisors' understanding fiber
36 broadband connectivity and reliability is critical infrastructure for the health, safety, and
37 quality of life for community residents, including access to telemedicine, expansive
38 economic development and growth, and provides distance learning education opportunities
39 for all; and

40
41 **WHEREAS**, this Resolution has been supported by Barron County Economic
42 Development Director Dave Armstrong; and

43 **WHEREAS**, this resolution was approved by the Executive Committee on January
44 8th, 2025 with Bartlett, B. Anderson, Cook, Hanson, Kusilek, Wenzel, Okey, Rogers and
45 Thompson voting in favor and no members voting against.

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47 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Barron County Board of
48 Supervisors does, by the passage of this Resolution, endorse Brightspeed, DBA, Connect
49 Holding II LLC, as a BEAD program applicant and Barron County broadband provider
50 and supports the construction of unserved and underserved communities in Barron County
51 highlighted within the Wisconsin Public Service Commission Broadband Map as part of
52 the BEAD program, as administered by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, to
53 make Barron County fully covered within broadband access as stated.

54
55 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that publication of this resolution may occur
56 through posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

57
 OFFERED THIS 13th, day of January 2025.

<p>Number of readings required: One (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>) Two (<input type="checkbox"/>) Vote required for passage: Majority (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>) 2/3 Entire Board (20) (<input type="checkbox"/>) Source of funding: Budgeted (<input type="checkbox"/>) General Fund (<input type="checkbox"/>) Grant (<input type="checkbox"/>) Contingency (<input type="checkbox"/>) Other (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>) Details: N/A</p> <p>Fiscal impact: - Current year total amount: \$ 0 - Future years total amount: \$ 0 - Effect on tax levy – current year - \$ 0 - Effect on tax levy – future years - \$ 0 Fiscal impact reviewed by County Finance Department</p> <p>_____ Jodi Busch, Finance Director Approved as to form by:</p> <p>_____ Jeffrey French, Administrator</p> <p>_____ John Muench, Corporation Counsel</p>	<p>_____ Louie Okey, Executive Committee Chair</p> <p>(The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.)</p> <p>Board Action: Adopted (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>) Failed (<input type="checkbox"/>) Tabled (<input type="checkbox"/>)</p> <p>Motion: (Turcott/Wenzel) to approve. Discussion. Carried with 22 Yes, 4 Absent (P. Anderson, Fall, Kusilek & Thompson) and 3 No (Kohnen, Krug & Vaughn).</p>
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