

**DOVRE TOWNSHIP  
KANDIYOHI COUNTY  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

July 19, 2021

Property Owner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, ST Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Property ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Property Owner:

Dovre Township has been requested by residents to consider the establishment of a Subordinate Service District (“SSD”) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 365A to help facilitate the installation and financing of high-speed internet through Federated Telephone Cooperative (“Federated”) (who would ultimately own the broadband system and provide the service). SSDs are a financing tool that Townships can use to provide a service to property owners that request a service not provided to the entire Township. This letter is being sent to try to answer some questions that have been presented to the Town Board regarding the proposed project and SSD. Your property address has been identified by Federated as a location in the broadband expansion area of approximately 280 properties which will make up the SSD. Because this project will result in an assessment of about \$1,500, 50% of the property owners need to be in favor of the project for it to move forward. If you are in favor of the project, please sign the enclosed petition and mail back to the Township as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Pat Jacobs, Dovre Town Clerk

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**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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**How is a subordinate service district formed?** A subordinate service district may be established by petition. The petition must be signed by at least 50% of the *property owners* in the area to be served. Within 30 days of receiving a valid petition, the Town Board must hold a public hearing and then approve, approve with modifications, or disapprove the request. The creation of a subordinate service district is subject to reverse referendum. If 25 percent of property owners in the district petition for a referendum, a special election must be held. When this occurs, the district is not established unless approved by a majority of those voting on the question.

**What do I need to do if I want the Township proceed with this project?** As stated above, the first step is for the Township to receive a petition(s) signed by at least 50% of “property owners” in area proposed for the SSD. For your convenience the Township has enclosed a petition form for you and other property owners within the SSD to sign requesting the creation of an SSD to provide high speed internet services. Without the signatures of at least 50% of the property owners living in the proposed SSD area this project will not move forward. Once the Township has received 51% of the property owner signatures, everyone will be notified of a public hearing.

**If I don’t sign the petition and there is still 50% or more of property owners in favor, will I still be assessed?** Yes.

**What are my options for paying the assessment?** You may pay the full balance up front or it can be levied against your property taxes for a length determined by the Town Board, most likely 10 years.

**Who is a property owner for purposes of signing a petition?** Only official property owners, those with their name on the property's deed, can sign the petition. Many properties have numerous owners, in which case, yes, they can all sign the petition. Others have purchased their house on a Contract for Deed or are renters. In these cases, only the legal owner(s) can sign the petition. Much of the time, there are more property owners than homes in the proposed district. For example, if you and your spouse are both owners of the property, then you both can sign the petition. With regard to property held in a trust, the trustees would be considered the owner of the property. There may be more than one trustee who would be considered the owner of the property. If you have any questions regarding who is considered an owner with regard to a trust, please contact the Township with a copy of the trust document. The Township will review the trust document and provide an answer as to who can sign the petition as an owner.

**I own more than one parcel in the project area, can I sign the petition for each parcel?** No. Only one signature per property owner in the project area is allowed.

**When will the project commence?** At this time the plan is for the project to happen in 2022, however, this is dependent on how long it takes to receive the number of signatures needed to move to the next step.

**Will I be required to order service through Federated?** Broadband service will be available to you, but you are not required to sign up for the service.

