



## **For Immediate Release**

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### **MVEC Hosts Senator Ernst**

ANAMOSA, Iowa, Apr 26, 2019 – Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative (MVEC) recently shared the Cooperative’s smart grid efforts with Senator Joni Ernst, specifically sharing how those efforts evolved to offer fiber to the home services. Launched in 2016, MVlink now provides up to one gigabyte of internet speed with a VoIP telephone option.

MVEC is 2 ½ years into the 4-year projected build-out of their service territory in eastern Iowa. In addition to providing another service their membership requested, the build-out answers the needs of the Cooperative to adequately communicate with their substations and electric system devices. Multiple devices now send millions of data points back to the Cooperative’s Anamosa office. The Cooperative uses this data to assist with system operations and maintenance, system restoration, and to assist their members in using energy efficiently.

According to CEO Jeremy Richert, “Our members tell us electric service reliability is important to them, and they have asked for our help in providing them with a reliable, consistent and affordable internet service. MVlink helps us meet both of those requests. Our members are enjoying internet service that is more robust than some urban areas, and the Cooperative can better manage our electric system with the high speed fiber communications network.”

“I really enjoyed visiting with Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative as part of my 99 County Tour to hear about the work they’re doing to connect communities and businesses together in Iowa and around the globe,” said Senator Joni Ernst. “This important work will help keep our growing economy and Iowa businesses on track in the technology age.”

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative is a member-owned utility that distributes electricity to over 17,000 homes, farms and businesses in Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson and Jones counties and portions of five surrounding counties and is now expanding to provide a high-speed fiber internet service. For more information about the cooperative visit [www.mvec.coop](http://www.mvec.coop) or [www.facebook.com/maquoketavalleyelectriccooperative](https://www.facebook.com/maquoketavalleyelectriccooperative).



[Photo L-R: Kelly Gibbs, CFO; Ron Thielen, President, Senator Joni Ernst, Jeremy Richert, CEO, Patty Manuel, Director Public Relations]