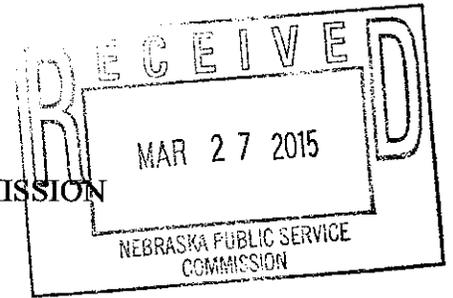


BEFORE THE
NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service)
Commission, on its own motion, seeking to)
administer the Nebraska Universal Service)
Fund's Broadband Program: Application)
to the Nebraska Broadband Program)
Received from NebraskaLink Holdings, LLC)

Application No. NUSF-92.31

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JASON AXTHELM IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION

Q. Please state your name.

A. My name is Jason Axthelm.

Q. Please state your position with and the name of your current employer and provide a summary of your duties.

A. My title is Vice President of Business Development at NebraskaLink Holdings, LLC ("NebraskaLink") and I have worked for the company in this capacity since 2013. I serve as a member of the senior management team at NebraskaLink where I manage the company's sales and business development functions while playing a key role in project development and network deployment decisions.

Q. Please describe the Applicant and its business.

Formed in 2010, NebraskaLink is a collaboration of seven Nebraska rural, independent telephone companies. NebraskaLink has deployed a high-speed, progressive fiber network throughout the State of Nebraska. This fiber network brought new-found connectivity to many Nebraska communities and anchor institutions, including state and local governmental agencies, educational networks, colleges, schools, healthcare providers and financial institutions. NebraskaLink promotes broadband adoption in both the public and private sectors by utilizing its statewide fiber network to offer

competitive pricing, diversified routing, and reliable connectivity to local governments, educational institutions, wholesale carriers, Internet service providers and business customers.

Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A. My testimony is provided to support NebraskaLink's application to the Commission seeking funding under the Nebraska Universal Service Fund Broadband Adoption Program.

Q. Can you describe the Application?

A. Yes. NebraskaLink, in partnership with the Lincoln City Libraries, will construct a dark fiber network comprised of twelve fiber strands for the use of the Lincoln City Libraries. This proposed fiber network will interconnect the eight Lincoln City Library locations. The proposed fiber network will dramatically increase the connectivity and capacity of the library infrastructure, bringing speeds in line with the latest technology. Additionally, the proposed project plan will also connect the Lincoln City Libraries to Network Nebraska, a collaborative, multipurpose telecommunications backbone network utilized by the State of Nebraska, the University of Nebraska and others, including Lincoln Public Schools. The ability to interconnect with Lincoln Public Schools via the connection with Network Nebraska is of key importance, as it will enable Lincoln Public School students to access the Lincoln Public Schools network at all eight Lincoln City Library locations. In the areas where NebraskaLink has existing fiber infrastructure, NebraskaLink will make available to the Lincoln Libraries two strands of fiber from each of the eight library locations back to the Network Nebraska facility.

Q. Are there additional details and supporting information in the Application?

A. Yes. The Application contains a more detailed description of the proposed project. For a significant demographic group in the City of Lincoln, the facilities offered by the Lincoln City Libraries represent the only source of Internet access. The Application more fully-articulates how multiple entities are working together to meet the needs of this constituency by exponentially increasing the Lincoln City Libraries' ability to provide high speed Internet connectivity. When coupled with the interconnection to Network Nebraska and the related connectivity with Lincoln Public Schools, I believe the project becomes an especially effective vehicle for promoting broadband adoption.

Q. Do you support the Staff recommendation regarding the Application?

A. Yes. I appreciate the Staff's recommendation to approve the Application and believe the Commission should adopt the Staff's recommendation regarding the Application.

Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

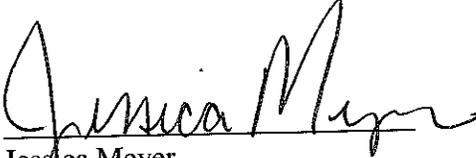
A. Yes.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on this 27th day of March, 2015, the original, five copies and an electronic copy of the foregoing pleading was delivered to:

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