

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service) Application No. NUSF-0092.33
Commission, on its own motion, seeking to)
Administer the Nebraska Universal Service)
Fund's Broadband Program: Application to the)
Nebraska Broadband Program received from)
Pinpoint Wireless, Inc. d/b/a BLAZE Wireless)

PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY
TOM SHOEMAKER

Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

A. My name is Tom Shoemaker. My business address is 611 Patterson Street, Cambridge, Nebraska 69022.

Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED?

A. I am the Executive Vice President of the Applicant in these proceedings, Pinpoint Wireless, Inc. d/b/a Blaze Wireless ("Blaze").

Q. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN EMPLOYED BY BLAZE, AND WHAT ARE YOUR GENERAL DUTIES?

A. I have been employed by our parent company Pinpoint Holdings since March of 2001. My primary duties are the day to day oversight of all operating functions of the company, its staff, and its day to day management.

Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?

A. My prefiled direct testimony addresses three topics. In Section I, I provide background and introductory information about Blaze and its parent entities. In Section II, I affirm that the information provided in Blaze's Application Requesting Support from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund Broadband Program, and Blaze's Amended Application (the "Blaze Application") is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. In

Section III, I explain Blaze's position with respect to the distribution of available funds from the NUSF Broadband Program.

Q. ARE YOU SPONSORING ANY EXHIBITS IN CONNECTION WITH YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?

A. Yes. To the extent that those materials are not otherwise made part of the record in these proceedings, I am sponsoring the Blaze Application, the Blaze Amended Application, and all exhibits related thereto.

I. INTRODUCTION

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE BLAZE.

A. Blaze¹ is a Nebraska corporation and is authorized to conduct business in the State of Nebraska. Blaze is the licensee authorized to provide Cellular Mobile Radio Service ("CMRS") in the Nebraska Basic Trading Area 270. The Commission designated Blaze as an eligible telecommunications carrier in the State of Nebraska by Order dated June 26, 2012.² Blaze is a subsidiary of Pinpoint Holdings, Inc., a diversified holdings company of telecommunications entities.

Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE BLAZE'S CURRENT GENERAL SERVICE AREA AND SERVICE OFFERINGS.

A. Blaze currently offers service in the southwest portion of Nebraska. We are currently focused on an eight (8) county area to supply both voice and data services. Currently Blaze offers mobile voice, mobile data, fixed voice and fixed data services to its customers. It is Blaze's intent to offers services wherever our customers live, work, and play.

¹ Blaze was incorporated (as Pinpoint Wireless, Inc.) in the State of Nebraska on July 30, 1998.

² *In the Matter of the Application of Pinpoint Wireless, Inc. d/b/a BLAZE Wireless, Cambridge, Nebraska, Seeking Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier*, Docket No. C-4448 / NUSF-79.

II. AFFIRMATION OF BLAZE APPLICATION

Q. ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE BLAZE APPLICATION FILED IN THIS MATTER?

A. Yes. The Blaze Application, Amended Application, and exhibits were prepared either by me or under my direct supervision.

Q. ARE THE STATEMENTS MADE IN THE BLAZE APPLICATION TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE?

A. Yes.

**III. BLAZE'S POSITION OF THE DISTRIBUTION
OF AVAILABLE FUNDS**

Q. HAS BLAZE REVIEWED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMISSION STAFF REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF AVAILABLE FUNDS FROM THE DEDICATED WIRELESS PROGRAM?

A. Yes, Blaze has reviewed the Recommendations of Commission Staff, dated May 12, 2015, in this docket and in the related NUSF-92 dockets.

Q. WHAT IS BLAZE'S POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE COMMISSION STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS?

A. Blaze's original Application sought approximately \$1.9 Million in funding from the Broadband Program for six (6) project sites. After the filing of Blaze's original application, Blaze negotiated with and resolved numerous issues with the parties intervening in this proceeding. As a result of those negotiations and agreements, Blaze filed its Amended Application on or about February 9, 2015. In its Amended Application, Blaze requested funding for one (1) project site, for which Blaze would receive \$321,750 under the Commission Staff's recommendations. Therefore, Blaze has no objection to the Commission Staff's funding recommendations. Blaze requests that the Commission

issue an Order adopting the Commission staff's funding recommendations as soon as possible so that the available funds may be put to their intended use in the near future.

.Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY?

A. Yes.

