

Dawes County Commissioners

451 Main Street

Chadron, NE 69337

07/02/2024

Dear Broadband Bridge Grant Committee,

Dawes County Board of Commissioners would like to support the efforts of Mobius Communications, by letter, in seeking funding to help grow our area. Their diligence to pursue grant funding to bring fiber to rural Dawes County will allow us as a rural community to be more connected with the entire country.

Mobius Communications has been persistent in the work they are doing to see that their buried fiber to our rural residents becomes a reality. These funding sources are key in connecting rural Nebraska with the rest of the country through broadband fiber and the ability to work from anywhere in the countryside.

Thank you, for the opportunity to address and support such an important project for our rural area of Dawes County.

Please support their application in the Dawes County Bridge Grant.

Best Regards,

Dawes County

Board of Commissioners,

Webb Johnson

Vic Rivera

Jake Stewart

Nebraska Public Service Commission
Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program Grant
1200 N Street, Suite 300
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Grant Committee:

We are a retired couple living in a rural community in western Nebraska, Dawes County. Because we have very limited internet, streaming and downloading are commonly a very frustrating experience. As a volunteer, I occasionally participate in zoom meetings, and it is not unusual to have difficulty switching both my audio and video on at the same time. Unfortunately, we do not have access to strong broadband service since fiber optic does not extend down to the end of the county road. We have multiple neighbors who experience the same limitations and frustrations.

Also, as a retired couple, we are continually looking for opportunities to reduce living expenses. An opportunity we currently cannot access, to reduce expenses, is bundling our television, land phone line, and internet with Mobius. Also, with our current television service, we do not have access to local television stations for local news and weather. Instead, we are stuck with Denver news and weather stations and programs. If we could access Mobius broadband, their television options include local news and weather options for western Nebraska. We could also access Nebraska Educational TV, and currently our only option to view NETV public television is an occasional Nebraska program broadcast through Colorado public television.

My last comment relates to having a level and viable playing field as it relates to real estate. As you can imagine, having a home today without a strong internet and broadband service leaves a seller at a great disadvantage when it comes time to put a home on the market. Many folks in today's labor force work remotely from home, and these folks are not going to be interested in looking and purchasing a home without broadband service.

We and many of our neighbors are hoping that Mobius is successful in securing the grant funding to provide strong broadband service to our rural community.

Thank you!!!

Greg and Jan Schenbeck
183 Goffena Road
Chadron, NE 69337

Nebraska Public Service Commission
Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program Grant
1200 N Street, Suite 300
Lincoln, NE, 68508

July 2, 2024

Dear Grant Committee:

My wife and I are residents of Dawes County, a few miles outside of Chadron. I am writing in support of Mobius Communications' application for a Nebraska Broadband Bridge grant.

Like most people these days, even more for those of us in rural areas, the internet is central to our lives. Our everyday personal and work tasks require a reliable internet connection in the home. We are currently served by a DSL line through Century Link. This service barely meets our minimum needs and we would eagerly upgrade to a faster broadband service if available.

We monitor our internet connection with the SamKnows service provided through the FCC's Measuring Broadband America program. During the past month we experienced a maximum download speed of 10 Mbs, which is barely adequate. However, the average upload speed is only 0.8 Mbs, which severely limits the usefulness of our service. We also experienced a total of 262 disconnections in the past 30 days, the longest of which lasted 18 minutes. And the number of disconnections has doubled in the last year.

We frequently attend virtual meetings using a desktop computer and are forced to attend without video because of the limited upload speed. The tendency for high latency makes virtual meetings frustrating and unprofessional looking. The download speeds we experience are just adequate for streaming entertainment, but not fast or reliable enough to stream to two devices simultaneously.

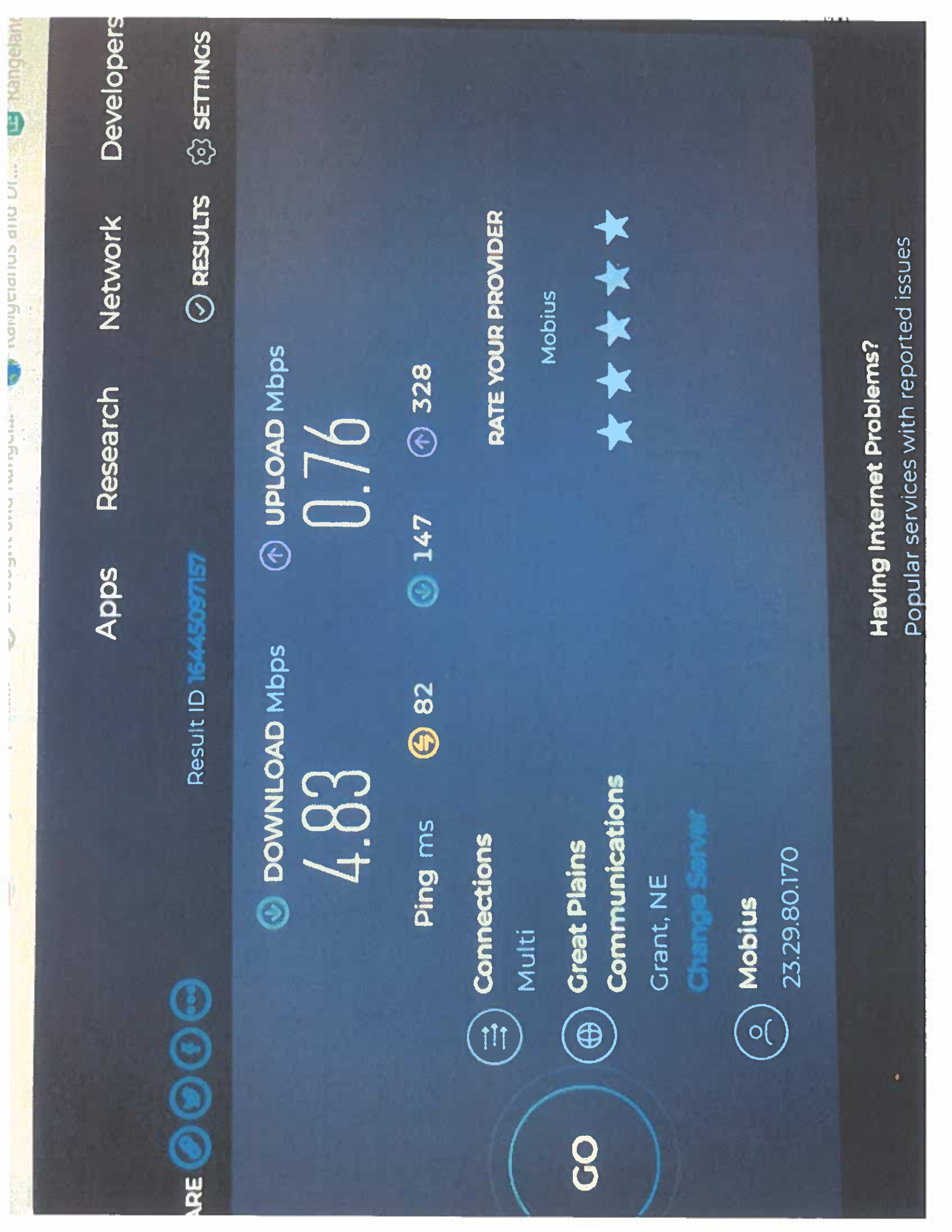
While our internet service is barely adequate, it gets worse for our neighbors down the road. The fiber terminal (DSLAM) was placed by the current provider almost half a mile from the first consumer. The large distance between homes means that only three or four customers out of about 16 could ever be expected to get adequate service. This slapdash installation was never designed for the whole neighborhood and needs to be replaced with a modern digital solution. Symmetrical gigabit fiber to homes could accomplish that.

We welcome the application of Mobius for this grant to support installation of gigabit fiber to our area.

Sincerely,



Michael Leite
167 Goffena Road
Chadron, NE 69337
(308) 432-8435



Apps

Research

Network

Developers



Result ID 16445097157

RESULTS SETTINGS

DOWNLOAD Mbps UPLOAD Mbps

4.83 0.76

Ping ms 82 147 328

GO

Connections Multi Great Plains Communications Grant, NE Change Server

Mobius 23.29.80.170

RATE YOUR PROVIDER

Mobius ★★★★★

Having Internet Problems? Popular services with reported issues

Nebraska Public Service Commission
Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program Grant
1200 N Street, Suite 300
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Grant Committee:

My wife and I live in Dawes County near Chadron. We live on a two-and-a-half mile long, dead end road with 16 residences along it. A fiber optic cable is present where our county road meets US Highway 385. Unless we have chosen to make other arrangements, my neighbors and I have internet service provided over phone lines with upload speeds of less than one mgb and download speeds of less than 10 mgb.

As everyone is aware, and that awareness was intensified during the pandemic, quality internet service is essential to functioning in a digital world. Whether it be conducting business transactions, attending meetings remotely, doing research or school work, or just watching a Netflix movie, the internet capabilities that are taken for granted in many places are still only a dream for those of us in rural settings without fiber optic broadband internet.

Because of our proximity to Chadron, our rural setting, our lack of nearby (line of sight) neighbors, and increasing reports of rising crime rates in rural areas, I decided some time ago to install a camera-based security system. I found that it is not uncommon for each camera to require a minimum upload speed of 2.5 mgb. Our .89 mgb upload speed was far from adequate. We upgraded to the Starlink system, but view it as an interim step because there are issues with oversubscription in some parts of the country, sub-par customer service, and the equipment is expensive and has to be customer-installed.

Another consideration is property values. My wife and I are approaching a time when we are likely to move to a setting that requires less effort than where we are currently. The marketability of our home, and others in the area will undoubtedly be negatively affected unless they are equipped with internet service that meets or exceeds current adequacy standards.

Finally, I and my wife and our neighbors on Goffena Road hope that you will favorably consider the grant application submitted by Mobius Communications to extend fiber optic internet service to our area for the reasons stated above and to meet State goals of having broadband in all rural homes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jerry and Marilyn Schumacher
213 Goffena Rd.
Chadron, NE 69337