

Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc.
Fillmore County 3
Attachment M-2 – Letters of Support

Stakeholders in the Fillmore County 3 project area have provided signed letters endorsing Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc.'s grant application for funding from the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program.

Nebraska State Legislature

SENATOR TOM BRANDT

District 32
State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604
(402) 471-2711
tbrandt@leg.ne.gov



COMMITTEES

Natural Resources
Transportation and Telecommunications

Nebraska Public Service Commission
1200 N Street, Suite 300
P.O. Box 94927
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: Glenwood Broadband Bridge Program Application

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to encourage you to approve the request made by Glenwood Telecommunications Inc. for funding under the Broadband Bridge Program, which aims to enhance connectivity throughout much of rural Fillmore County, including the village of Strang. All of Fillmore County lies in the 32nd Legislative District, which I have the privilege of serving.

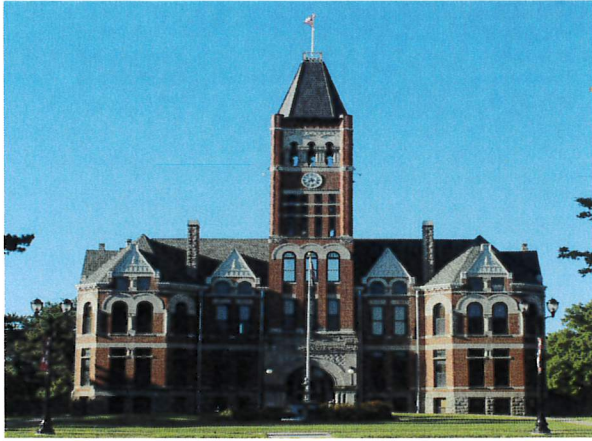
During my first term in office, I have been a strong proponent of facilitating public-private partnerships. I understand that Glenwood is actively working with Fillmore County to determine how to expeditiously deploy broadband infrastructure to best serve the needs of all locations in the Project footprint. That is roughly 107 rural Nebraskans who don't have reliable broadband today. Glenwood's track record when it comes to serving all locations in its service territory is critical to my support for their application.

Not only have the public-private partners agreed to serve all locations, but they have agreed to cooperate to ensure that services will be affordable for all residents. What Glenwood has agreed to with Fillmore County is the type of collaboration we should be encouraging, and you can do so by approving Glenwood's application.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Brandt".

Senator Tom Brandt
Legislative District 32



Fillmore County Board

PO Box 307, 900 G Street
Geneva, Nebraska 68361
Phone (402)759-4931 FAX (402)759-4307

Web: www.fillmorecountyne.gov

Nebraska Public Service Commission
1200 N Street, Suite 300
PO Box 94927
Lincoln, NE 68508

To Whom it May Concern:


This letter is to express our support for Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc.'s application to the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program.

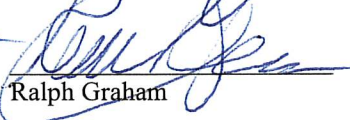
Glenwood, together with Fillmore County, has been fortunate to secure NBBP funding in two previous instances. As a result, more than 100 (previously unserved) homes and businesses in our rural areas now have access to dependable, high-speed broadband.

Glenwood's application for the 2024 Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program identifies 83 designated unserved households in the rural area of Fillmore County, currently lacking sufficient broadband connectivity. This inadequacy in internet service results in local students being deprived of essential educational resources, limits telehealth options for families, impedes remote work opportunities and prevents our farmers from adopting advanced agriculture technology.

We are optimistic and enthusiastic about the opportunity to improve broadband in rural Fillmore County through the Nebraska Bridge Program. Your attention to this initiative would strengthen internet services in Fillmore County, offering locals dependable and adequate broadband access.

Fillmore County Board of Supervisors


Jeff Neiman, Chairman

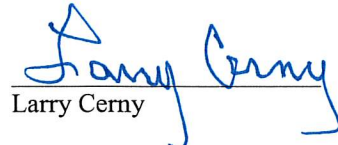

Ralph Graham


Mark Lightwine


Kenny Harre


Wade Sluka


Merle Noel


Larry Cerny



I am writing in support of Glenwood's application for the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program in Fillmore County. As you know, being connected in today's world is essential. Money spent on fiber infrastructure will ensure we can continue to do business in rural parts of Fillmore County in the future.

Currently at our farm we rely on wireless internet connections that are hit or miss at best and not very fast when they do work. Wired connections are not available in our area. In order to have internet service working 100% of the time in our farm office and also in my cousin's house, who lives at the farm, we have to have internet service subscriptions to two different companies in hopes that one of them will always be working. The speeds of these services though do not match our needs for a modern farming operation. Currently it takes several hours to upload the data from our tractors, implements, and combines into the cloud from our farm internet service at less than 10mbps. These services are not reliable and tend to go down several times a week. I am constantly switching internet sources on my computer to find the one that is working that day. Glenwood has been a great partner in Fillmore County. Since the fiber buildout in Shickley, I have not lost service since Glenwood installed their service to my house. It has been a gamechanger for getting work done at my home.

I have been working with Glenwood for the past 4 years, starting with the project in the Village of Shickley and afterwards trying to get them to come to our farm with fiber service. They were timely, very professional, and great to work with when completing the project in Shickley. The first round they were 2 miles east and now with the 2024 round they are 1.5 miles south of our farm. We have been surrounded by fiber but have not had the ability to connect to it ourselves. Glenwood informed me the other day that our farm would be included in the next round of buildout. That would greatly help our ability to do business from our farm office and across our fields with connected devices in the field.

The Nebraska Public Service Commission's investment in the fiber service to our homes and businesses is today's equivalent of the REA bringing electricity to rural Nebraska. You all have the ability to make it financially feasible to bring once in a lifetime infrastructure upgrades that will benefit us for many years to come here in rural Fillmore County.

Without securing this grant, Glenwood has told me that it is not financially feasible to continue the fiber buildout and reach our farm. Just to build from their existing lines to our farm would cost approximately \$40,000. A figure that no one resident can afford to bring reliable internet to their premises without this grant funding.

I strongly support Glenwood and the work they are doing to bring fiber to south central Nebraska communities. The work they are doing is lifechanging for so many of us here in rural Nebraska where the incumbent telecommunications carriers invest very little in our infrastructure. Those providers, if they do answer a call, never respond to fix or upgrade services in our area. Glenwood is a shining star for investing in rural Nebraska for those of us with few options to connect. I fully support the work of Glenwood on their Fillmore County Fiber Project and I hope the Commission continues to fund these projects for Glenwood until every resident and business can access fiber internet services.

Sincerely,

Wade Walters
Walters Ag, LLC
Shickley, NE
402-759-1831

Nebraska Public Service Commission
1200 N Street, Suite 300
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Commissioners,

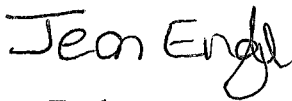
I am writing to express my support for Glenwood's Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program grant application. As a resident of rural Fillmore County, I have firsthand experience with the challenges of inadequate broadband infrastructure and its impact on our rural community.

In my role as the Fillmore County Emergency Management Director, there are times when I need to work remotely or respond to emergencies outside of regular business hours. Having dependable, high-speed internet is essential for carrying out my responsibilities efficiently. Regrettably, this challenge is not unique to me; numerous residents in rural Fillmore County face similar issues with insufficient broadband infrastructure, impacting their daily lives and work.

The Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program is a key initiative that can address these challenges by expanding broadband access in unserved rural areas. Enhanced internet connectivity will significantly improve the ability to work from home, is essential for economic development, education, healthcare, public safety and overall quality of life. It will ensure rural Fillmore Co. residents, regardless of location, have the tools we need to thrive.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I appreciate your continued efforts to improve broadband access across rural Nebraska.

Sincerely,



Jean Engle,
Emergency Management Director
Fillmore County