

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public) Application No. NUSF-131
Service Commission, on its own motion, to) Progression Order No. 4
establish reverse auction procedures and)
requirements.)
)
)

**COMMENTS OF THE
NEBRASKA RURAL BROADBAND ALLIANCE**

The Nebraska Rural Broadband Association (“NRBA”),¹ through its attorneys of record, submits these *Comments* (“Comments”) in response to the *Order Seeking Comment and Notice of Hearing* (“Order”) entered by the Public Service Commission (“Commission”) on May 13, 2025, in the above proceeding.

In its Order, the Commission proposes a “Unified Framework” as an alternative to the “Original Framework” for speed-testing under NUSF-133 of locations acquired under NUSF-131 Reverse Auctions. The NRBA applauds the Commission for its sensible proposals that will allow regulatory flexibility without impairing accountability for use of public funds.

First, the NRBA supports the Commission’s proposal under the Unified Framework to reduce the minimum number of tested locations to five or all locations in the project area if it encompasses fewer than five locations. Without a doubt, project areas will consist of fewer than five locations. This is a commonsense adjustment.

Second, the Commission proposes allowing flexibility with respect to the speeds being recorded through testing by differing technologies. In doing so, the Commission would essentially be remaining technology neutral by recognizing that some technologies are

¹ For purposes of this proceeding, the NRBA consists of the following carriers: Cambridge Telephone Company; Glenwood Telephone Membership Corporation; Glenwood Network Services; Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc.; Hemingford Cooperative Telephone Co.; Mainstay Communications; Midstates Data Transport, LLC dba Stealth Communications; Mobius Communications; Pinpoint Communications; Plainview Telephone Company; Stanton Telecom, Inc.; Town & Country Technologies; and WesTel Systems, dba Hooper Telephone Company.

capable of providing 1 Gbps service but limitations on the technologies' testing capabilities lead to incorrect data that shows lower maximum speeds. The Commission's proposal allows for a reasonable degree of testing variability. For these reasons, the NRBA supports the proposal.

The NRBA would add that it supports giving auction recipients the ***option*** of testing framework – Original or Unified – dependent on technology.

DATED: June 13, 2025

NEBRASKA RURAL BROADBAND
ASSOCIATION

Cambridge Telephone Company;
Glenwood Telephone Membership
Corporation; Glenwood Network Services;
Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc.;
Hemingford Cooperative Telephone Co.;
Mainstay Communications; Midstates
Data Transport, LLC; Mobius
Communications; Pinpoint
Communications, Plainview Telephone
Company, Stanton Telecom, Inc., Town &
Country Technologies, and WesTel
Systems, dba Hooper Telephone Company

By: REMBOLT LUDTKE LLP
3 Landmark Centre
1128 Lincoln Mall, Suite 300
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 475-5100
apollock@remboltlawfirm.com
jowusuansah@remboltlawfirm.com

By: /s/ Andrew S. Pollock
Andrew S. Pollock (#19872)
Jeffrey A. Owusu-Ansah (#28033)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that an original of the above **Comments** of the Nebraska Rural Broadband Association were filed with the Public Service Commission on June 13, 2025, and a copy was served via electronic mail, on the following:

Public Service Commission
psc.nusf@nebraska.gov
shana.knutson@nebraska.gov

Charter Fiberlink - Nebraska, LLC
and Time Warner Cable Information
Services, LLC
kevin.saltzman@kutakrock.com
Jean.Herman@KutakRock.com

Windstream Nebraska, Inc.
nicole.winters@windstream.com
mary@bruninglawgroup.com

Cox Nebraska Telcom, LLC
deonnebruning@neb.rr.com

Rural Telecommunications Coalition
of Nebraska
rwesterhold@nowkaedwards.com

CTIA
lbrooks@brookspanlaw.com
SBrakeman@brookspanlaw.com
mdetura@ctia.org
BAron@ctia.org

Nebraska Rural Independent
Companies
pschudel@woodsaitken.com

Qwest Corporation d/b/a
CenturyLink QCQ
kmcnamara@fraserstryker.com
jason.topp@lumen.com

/s/ Andrew S. Pollock
Andrew S. Pollock
Jeffrey A. Owusu-Ansah