



September 29, 2021

Nebraska Public Service Commission
Attn: Cullen Robbins, Director, Telecommunications/NUSF
1200 N St # 300
Lincoln, NE 68508

Re: Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program Support-NCTC

Dear Mr. Robbins,

Valley County Economic Development (VCED) is pleased to extend support to Nebraska Central Telephone Company (NCTC) and its application for funding from the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program.

NCTC has a long history of providing quality services in areas within Valley County and has upgraded the broadband speeds available within portions of its service territory. This grant would allow the same high-speed internet to be available to a broader region, including the Arcadia, Nebraska area. The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the need for high-speed broadband to support online learning, healthcare via telehealth and the ability to work from home. Additionally, the pandemic has created the desire among many urban dwellers to reside in less populated areas and enhanced internet accessibility for our rural residents will increase the attractiveness of our county-wide community from those who are able to work anywhere.

VCED is excited about the opportunity to have quality, high-speed broadband available to our area's citizens and fully support NCTC's grant application to bring fiber-to-the-home to our county. If awarded, we would help ensure that they have support from our community to complete this project quickly and efficiently.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Kristina Foth".

Kristina Foth
Executive Director
Valley County Economic Development