



February 24, 2023

Thomas Golden, Executive Director
Nebraska Public Service Commission
1200 North Street, Suite 300
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Mr. Golden:

Please accept this letter of support for Nextlink Internet's application to the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Capital Projects Grant.

The Microsoft Airband Initiative (Airband) is a part of Microsoft's Technology and Corporate Responsibility organization and aims to close the broadband gap worldwide. Airband partners with internet service providers (ISPs), equipment manufacturers, nonprofits, and other stakeholders to make affordable, quality broadband access a reality for unserved and underserved communities. To date, Airband partners have extended broadband connectivity to more than four million people living in unserved rural areas across the country. We can only achieve meaningful impact by leveraging connectivity to enable digital transformation with mission-aligned ISP partners, such as Nextlink Internet.

Based in Hudson Oaks, Texas, Nextlink is an internet service provider that primarily services extremely rural, low-density regions. Deploying a variety of wireline and wireless solutions to improve coverage across large geographies with minimal infrastructure, Nextlink provides broadband services that enable access to remote education, healthcare, and employment through affordable service plans for customers.

Since 2019, Nextlink has actively partnered with Airband. Microsoft is pleased to support Nextlink's efforts to offer affordable broadband as a foundation for digital transformation. As part of our partnership, we provide them with access to technical expertise, preferential pricing on innovative technology solutions, as well as digital skills training and broadband adoption support through other non-profit Airband partners.

Nextlink has extensive experience in the industry and demonstrates successful, timely broadband network deployments in unserved and underserved communities across rural America. We believe that the company is well-positioned to expand broadband connectivity efficiently and effectively to both unserved and underserved communities in Nebraska. Securing funding via the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Capital Projects Grant will help accelerate Nextlink's commitment to deliver connectivity to the state's unserved residents.

Again, we are pleased to extend this letter of support for Nextlink's proposal. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vickie S. Robinson".

Vickie S. Robinson
General Manager, Microsoft Airband Initiative