

MORRILL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Board of Commissioners

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Morrill County Board of Commissioners
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Ebony E. Cooksey
Market Development Manager
Nextlink Internet via email ecooksey@team.nxlink.com

To the Nebraska Public Service Commission and the The Nebraska BDO:

Morrill County is submitting a letter of support for Nextlink Internet to expand into unserved rural areas within our county under the CPF-2 Capital Projects Fund Grant.

We have knowledge of Nextlink being active in multiple Nebraska counties, including Colfax, Dodge, Gage, Lancaster and Seward and find the company to be a potentially excellent partner to serve rural households and businesses that are woefully underserved by the lack of broadband services. Lack of reliable broadband has caused harm to our economic development efforts and, therefore, we welcome Nextlink to bring broadband to their proposed areas if funded under the CPF-2 Capital Projects Funds Grant.

Consumer choice empowers communities and Nextlink offers an array of internet packages and affordable pricing for residents, businesses, commercial developments, schools, government facilities and more. Fixed wireless and fiber internet packages are available to Nebraska businesses, farms, and home with speeds of up to 1 Gig with no data caps or overage fees. The company's **Bridgeport Wireless Project** will cover approximately 500 sq. miles and 164 underserved locations. This area of Nebraska has locations lacking access to broadband internet service at speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps download/upload. Within these areas, locations will be able to receive speeds up to 500 Mbps download.

Nextlink's participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program also helps to ensure access to affordable internet connections our community desperately needs for work, school, and health care.

Furthermore, Nextlink's digital inclusion plan directly enables work, education, and healthcare monitoring and addresses the critical needs for our community that resulted from or was made apparent by the COVID-19 public health emergency. We are also award of their active partnership with the Microsoft Airband Initiative which supports customer access to technical expertise, preferential pricing on innovative technological solutions, and digital skills training.

In closing, CPG-2 capital Projects Fund Grant will help enable competent and capable internet service providers, like Nextlink, to continue their mission to close our community's digital divide by connecting additional businesses, farms, schools, and homes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Metz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeff Metz
Chairman of the Morrill County Board of Commissioners