

MOBIUS_BRIDGE GRANT BOX BUTTE_M_1

Attachment M

This attachment includes letters of support, speed tests, 2020 Mobius Federal Tax Return

Nebraska State Legislature

SENATOR JOHN P. STINNER

District 48
State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604
(402) 471-2802
jstinner@leg.ne.gov



COMMITTEES

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Legislature's Planning

October 1, 2021

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

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to encourage you to approve requests made by Mobius Communications for funding under the Governor's LB388 Broadband Bridge Program. While Mobius primarily serves outside of my district, I am very familiar with it and its affiliate, Hemingford Cooperative Telephone. Both companies have exemplary records of providing reliable and affordable broadband services to rural residents in the Panhandle. Hemingford's deployment of fiber to all locations in its territory – even remote farms and ranches – shows its commitment to using ratepayer and taxpayer funds wisely.

It is critical that rural Nebraskans have access to the global marketplace, health care services, and other resources essential to the sustainability and growth of rural areas. I supported LB388 and am hopeful it will produce results for Nebraskans across the state, especially in rural areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John P. Stinner".

Senator John P. Stinner
District 48

Alliance
Animal
Clinic

(308) 762-4140
Fax (308) 762-4142
50712 Perkins Road
P.O. Box 595
Alliance, Nebraska 69301
www.allianceanimalclinic.com

Dr. Clint Kesterson

Dr. David Ylander

Dr. Calvin Tolstedt

Dr. Anthony McClary

Dr. Kara Sutphen

Dear Grant Committee:

My family and I have lived in rural Box Butte County for over 14 years now and enjoy spending time with our animals and enjoying the tranquility of country life. I am a veterinarian and my wife is a registered nurse that works for the public schools as a school nurse.

With both of our jobs we need to access medical records by either logging into my work computer remotely or through a designated school portal for charting medical records or to work from home when required. My wife and I also attend online continuing education events so we can improve our patient care and our knowledge base for our careers without having to be away from our jobs for multiple days on end.

We have two children in the public school system now, one in the sixth grade and the other in the first grade, which have assigned online learning and research projects for homework. Our children are also normal children and like to look up funny things on You Tube and do online gaming with their friends from town.

With our current internet service we have been told by multiple service technicians that the demand on their towers is too high due to the company over selling internet services. Our internet works well on non-peak times of the day, but when everyone is home after work and school it usually shuts down and we cannot get any service at all for a varied amount of time. We are currently on our third wireless internet company with the same results. Working well at times, but not consistently reliable during high usage hours and losing it completely and randomly. Living in the country we now that our wireless products will not work during severe weather and deal with that, but this is not what we are talking about here.

Our current download speed is 9.74 Mbps and our upload speed is 3.96 Mbps according to speedtest.net.

There are many young school aged children in our immediate neighborhood that would benefit from consistent and reliable internet services.

Thank you,



Calvin Tolstedt DVM



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PING ms
106

DOWNLOAD Mbps
3.80

UPLOAD Mbps
2.57



Viaero
137.83.96.24



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Denver, CO

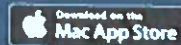


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MOBIUS_BRIDGE GRANT BOX BUTTE_M_4

Dear Grant Committee:

We have lived in rural Box Butte County and have for 30 plus years; we love living in the country and would not trade our rural roots for anything.

Living in the rural area challenges us without having strong internet. With owning our own farming business MBBB Inc, we use the internet for many things. We are having to pay bills, taxes and supplies for the business more everyday through the internet.

We also are finding that more businesses are wanting to communicate through the internet. One example that challenges us are online auctions which high speed internet is a must.

We currently have a wireless product that leaves us scarcely able to communicate. Our wireless is not consistent! Please help Mobius with this grant funding to get the rural area a strong internet.

Thank You

Mark and Bridget Vaughn
MBBBInc.

Internet speed test



11.6

Mbps download

1.68

Mbps upload

Latency: 23 ms

Server: Denver

Your Internet speed is fine.

Your Internet connection should be able to handle streaming an HD video. If multiple devices are streaming video at the same time, you may run into some slowdowns.

[LEARN MORE](#)

[TEST AGAIN](#)

Feedback



BOX BUTTE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
502 BOX BUTTE AVE., ALLIANCE, NE 69301
www.BoxButteDevelopment.com

September 23, 2021

Nebraska Public Service Commission
1200 N St. #300
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: Mobius Communications Grant for Box Butte County

Dear Nebraska Broadband Bridge Grant Committee,

The COVID-19 pandemic hit the world and changed our lives immensely, everything we knew as normal is now in a process of learning to pivot from the pandemic and to live our lives with a new normal. This funding can be the catapult to help rural western Nebraska do just that! The opportunity to provide Mobius Communications, our local broadband company, with financial support to build essential, reliable internet service is imperative.

Box Butte Development Corporation (BBDC) is writing in support of an application connecting Box Butte County Residents with broadband and fiber to the home, thanks to financial support of this grant. Rural communities such as ours need to be better connected with the rest of the world via broadband in order to sustain and eventually grow opportunities for both business and population growth.

If you have any further questions of BBDC and moving forward in this process, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chelsie Herian". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Chelsie Herian
BBDC Executive Director
308.762.1800
Chelsie.Herian@bbc.net

Nebraska State Legislature

SENATOR STEVE ERDMAN

District 47
Bayard, Nebraska

Legislative Address:
State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604
(402) 471-2616
serdman@leg.ne.gov



COMMITTEES

Chairperson - Building Maintenance
Appropriations
Committee on Committees
Rules

September 24, 2021

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

Re: Broadband Bridge Program

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to encourage you approve requests made by Mobius Communications for funding under the Governor's LB388 Broadband Bridge Program. Mobius is based in Hemingford, which is in my district. I write in support of Mobius because of the strong record the company and its affiliate, Hemingford Cooperative Telephone, have in providing reliable and affordable broadband services to rural residents throughout all of the areas the companies serve in the Panhandle.

I urge the Commission to take a careful look at the track records of those that apply for grants under the Broadband Bridge Program, which I voted to support. For too many years, the Commission allowed millions of dollars in NUSF support to be distributed to telephone companies that have very little fiber to show in their territories. You can make sure the funds under both the NUSF and Bridge program are well used by carefully examining the track records of the companies that seek them. Hemingford Cooperative Telephone and Mobius have demonstrated records of responsibly stewarding past government support. They are the type of business that Nebraskans can trust to get the job done, which is critical when public funds are being used.

My colleagues and I are watching the work you are doing. We wish you success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Erdman".

Steve Erdman

Dear Grant Committee,

We farm and ranch west of Alliance. As if farming and ranching doesn't have enough challenges, we also have the added challenge of trying to run our business with a very slow internet connection. It is hard to take part in online auctions, simply because the bid will not go through due to the lag from the internet. Keeping up with the bookwork is also challenging because our internet service is hit or miss. As you are well aware, the majority of banking is also transferring to online. Because of our poor internet, we don't always have the access we need to make our business run as smoothly and as seamlessly as possible. So much of our business is done via an internet connection. It seems everything these days is dependent on high speeds, which we simply do not have access to. Low internet speeds are extremely frustrating and make life more difficult than it has to be.

Our kids have a portion of their schooling that is done online and my son has actually had to get in the car, drive to town, to go sit outside of McDonald's and connect to their wifi just to be able to turn in a paper. This world is changing and nearly everything requires a reliable internet connection.

We were Mobius customers for years and loved it, they just couldn't give us what we needed as far as internet speed was concerned. We still only have a download speed of 10 Mbps, which should be at 15 Mbps. Fiber would allow us to do our jobs and school work quickly and more efficiently. We would also love to return to Mobius as they have always had excellent customer service.

Thank you,

Sherry Mann

Sherry Mann

Enclosure

9:06

SPEEDTEST

DOWNLOAD Mbps: 9.93

UPLOAD Mbps: 9.25

Ping 57ms | Jitter 12ms | Loss 0%

Nebraska Link Test Again

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Dear Grant Committee:

I have lived in rural Box Butte County my whole life. My family farms 6 miles west of Alliance. We love living in the country, but dealing with rural Internet has been a growing challenge. This is a continued frustration for my family, and my business.

I run a farm of 5300 acres and a lot of the business to manage my farm is conducted online. My home office is located out of my house, so reliable Internet is very important to my job. It is not uncommon that multiple times a day when trying to get online to conduct business that the computer or phone will say "check wireless connection," and I will have to reset everything. Many times that will not work either, and I will be left with no option other than to try to run the business off of my data on my phone, or delay my work until the internet will start working.

We have stressed these concerns over and over to our current Internet provider without a resolution. Each time the company comes to look at our problem, we never get the issue fixed due to the restraints of our location. Farmers have enough to worry about everyday; in 2021 the Internet should not be an added stressor. I start each morning wondering what type of Internet service I will have that day, to know how many delays I will have. My farm and employees rely on Internet, and it could eventually result in a loss of my own Income, and jobs if the Internet continues at this pace, as so much business is conduction online these days. Please help Mobius with this grant funding to get the rural area strong, reliable Internet!

Thank You,
James Jelinek
Jelinek Farms

Dear Grant Committee:

We have lived in rural Box Butte County for over 35 years and still reside there. We love living in the country, but dealing with rural Internet has been a problem.

My husband farms, and I run a Travel Agency out of my home, so reliable Internet is very important to our jobs. I have had numerous occasions where our internet has quit and we've had to run to town to finish our business at a family member's house.

Covid has been another problem as I have tried to conduct quite a few meetings via Zoom with my clients, and our internet has not allowed that many times.

We currently have a wireless product that is having to be reset daily.

Please help Mobius with this grant funding to get the rural area strong, reliable internet

Global Dreams Travel

Thank you,

Jim and Laurie Jelinek

Global Dreams Travel