



NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT 2

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February 16, 2023

Chairman Dan Watermeier
Nebraska Public Service Commission
1200 N Street, Suite 300
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Chairman Watermeier,

As an important resource to public schools in Northeast Nebraska, Educational Service Unit 2 (ESU 2) has a responsibility to ensure all students have reliable access to the tools and services they need to learn, grow, and become productive citizens. By providing access to fast, reliable internet broadband we collectively ensure one of the best resources to accomplish this mission.

While completing this mission, it is critical that we not forget the rural children and families. Smaller communities often do not have access to the same internet services and speeds as larger communities. It is my understanding; Charter Communications is ready to bring better connectivity to these rural communities and areas.

We have an opportunity to course-correct and ensure rural Nebraskans are offered the same quality and reliable broadband as their urban counterparts. By working with an experienced provider like Charter, we can support connectivity to every community, large and small.

Charter Communications, using the brand name Spectrum, already provides broadband to residents in small towns in rural areas across Nebraska. Not only is Charter a proven partner in rural areas, but they're working to connect residents across income levels through Spectrum Internet Assist and the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

I encourage you to select Charter for these upcoming grant opportunities due to their experience and commitment to connecting all Nebraskans.

I appreciate your time in considering this important issue and will provide my Technical Team as a resource for you, Charter, or anyone else serving the students of ESU 2.

Dr. Ted DeTurk
Executive Director
Educational Service Unit 2



February 15, 2023

Chairman Dan Watermeier
Nebraska Public Service Commission
1200 N Street, Suite 300
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Chairman Watermeier:

I am writing to support Charter Communication's application for broadband grant funding in Lancaster County. High-speed, affordable internet service has nearly become as essential as water and electricity. Despite this, many Nebraskans lack access to quality broadband. I applaud your work to help address this issue during your tenure on the Nebraska Public Service Commission and encourage you to look at Lancaster County during the upcoming Capital Projects Fund grant round.

The Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) was established in 1980 to advocate for small business interests in the Lincoln/Lancaster County area. Now, we are comprised of over 950 member businesses and local leaders that focus on advocacy throughout the community. LIBA is supportive of any grant applications made in our region to expand broadband access.

For area businesses to thrive, we need a connection that matches our drive and plans for growth. Charter's buildout will use fiber-optic infrastructure to ensure our broadband needs are met now and far into the future.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bud Synhorst".

Bud Synhorst
President & CEO

SUPPORT LETTER FOR BROADBAND GRANT APPLICATIONS
ENHANCING LINCOLN/LANCASTER COUNTY REGION
February 2023

The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce is a full-service chamber, which has earned the highest 5-Star accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The Lincoln Chamber has served the Lincoln business community for over 150 years, working to expand economic vitality. Our chamber has a diversified and growing membership that reflects the strength of our community and region.

The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce is supportive of grant applications made for the purpose of expanding/enhancing broadband services in Lincoln/Lancaster County and our region.

The Lincoln Chamber recognizes applicants for such grants directed to a more competitive telecommunications environment for the Lincoln/Lancaster County Region will be an integral part of expanding economic vitality for the region. This is good for business, individuals, and our community/region.

The Chamber takes note of opportunities that have arisen for grants to private sector providers in our region and we support these efforts that align with our 2023 local policy agenda, which states "as business needs evolve, issues such as high-speed broadband communications ... are necessary for growth."

Sincerely,



Jason Ball, President & CEO



Raymond Central Public Schools
Agnew • Ceresco • Davey • Raymond • Valparaiso

Chairman Dan Watermeier
Nebraska Public Service Commission
1200 N Street, Suite 300
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Chairman Watermeier,

As Superintendent of Raymond Central Public Schools, I know what the students and teachers in Lancaster County need to thrive. One such necessity is high-speed broadband. Our current education system relies on the internet, to access their learning management system and materials and completing homework at home. Children who have low-quality, unreliable internet in their homes are inevitably left behind.

The Nebraskan government reports that only 65.3% of people in rural Lancaster have access to fiber and/or cable broadband. This is unacceptable. Thankfully, the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program has the potential to close the digital divide in Lancaster County. I want this program to be as successful as possible. That's why I believe the Public Service Commission should award a grant in Lancaster County to Charter Communications in the coming cycle.

Charter is a well-regarded nationwide provider who is already well-established in our state. They serve numerous Nebraskan communities, including parts of Lancaster County. This allows them to extend their network quickly. Moreover, they have a track record of expanding broadband efficiently, particularly in hard-to-reach, rural areas.

Charter also works hard to make their network affordable. They were a day one participant in the federal Affordable Connectivity Program, which gives discounts to low-income households on their monthly internet bills. Further, Charter has their own initiative, titled Spectrum Internet Assist, which provides low-cost internet connection to eligible customers.

I believe Charter Communications can get affordable, high-speed broadband to every last home and business in Lancaster County. I encourage your office to consider their application for program grants in the coming round.

Sincerely,

Lynn Johnson, Superintendent
Raymond Central Public Schools

Chairman Dan Watermeier
Nebraska Public Service Commission
1200 N Street, Suite 300
Lincoln, NE 68508

February 16, 2023

Dear Chairman Watermeier,

I'm writing with regards to the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program (NBBP) – a program that I'm eager to see unfold in our state and one that will benefit thousands of people who need internet service. I urge you to do all that you can to capitalize on this program by ensuring we partner with internet service providers to carry out this important work.

To that end, I support Charter Communications in their broadband deployment efforts in Lancaster County and throughout the state. They will be filing an application with the Public Service Commission to receive NBBP funds, and I'm confident that they're deserving of this grant money and can help quickly deploy broadband to Lancaster County's underserved areas.

In my role as Administrator of Educational Service Unit 6 in Milford, I work alongside others to help school districts with the educational services they need, ensuring that students and educators have resources and tools to thrive inside and outside of the classroom. We know that one of the greatest resources in education is access to online tools, enabling students to get ahead and prepare for higher education – and ultimately the 21st century workforce.

Charter is a partner that can help get broadband to more students and families. With more than 100,000 Nebraskans already served by Charter through their brand Spectrum, their deployment successes are apparent. With their help, we can connect even more residents to high-quality broadband. This is especially important to our area

of Lancaster County, where rural residents are often the last to be served by high-speed internet.

Charter also recognizes the importance of helping connect people with broadband from all income levels. In fact, they participate in the federal Affordable Connectivity Program, which offers a discount of up to \$30 off of eligible families' monthly bills. Offerings for high-speed internet at a lower cost are also available to seniors and families through Charter's Spectrum Internet Assist.

We must take advantage of this great opportunity to expand broadband and make the biggest impact we can in our state. Please prioritize Charter's application for approval so that we can help more residents get connected to the internet they need and deserve.

Sincerely,



Dr. John Skretta

Administrator

Educational Service Unit 6