



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

February 17, 2023

Dear Mr. Watermeier,

The Plattsmouth Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of businesses in our community and I'm proud to serve in the Executive Director role. One issue that has become increasingly important for our businesses and their employees is reliable access to the internet. The state's Broadband Bridge Program is a great step toward achieving 100% connectivity in Nebraska.

Charter Communications, or Spectrum, is applying for a grant through the Broadband Bridge Program to expand service in Cass County. Charter is just the partner our community needs to help bring fast and reliable internet to our businesses and residents in rural Cass County. Charter's Spectrum Internet offers up to 1 gigabit speeds for residential customers, along with options for low-income households through the Affordable Connectivity Program and Spectrum Internet Assist.

I support Charter's application in Cass County and believe they are the right partner to connect our businesses and residents quickly. I encourage your support for their application and thank you for your work to facilitate this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cindy Cruse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "C" at the beginning.

Cindy Cruse, Executive Director
Plattsmouth Chamber of Commerce



CONESTOGA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

8404 42nd St, PO Box 184
Murray, NE 68409-0184

(402) 235-2992
(402) 227-2992

Michael Apple
Superintendent

Eric Dennis
Elementary Principal

Rob Geise
Jr./Sr. High Principal

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

February 16, 2023

Dear Mr. Watermeier,

I'm writing to offer my full support for Charter Communications' application to receive grant funding through the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program (NBBP). I'm encouraged to see that this program will facilitate and fund the deployment of broadband networks to households, schools and businesses in Cass County that are still in need of high-speed internet.

Reliable broadband is a critical component of nearly everything we do in our daily lives in the 21st century. I have a unique lens into the critical nature of broadband connectivity as the Superintendent of Conestoga Public Schools. To get and stay ahead academically, students need quality internet – whether they're at school or at home. Without it, students will quickly fall behind without the ability to utilize online school resources, connect with classmates or instructors, or complete homework.

During the pandemic, we saw just how acute the need still is for high-speed internet in Nebraska – especially rural areas. Students and teachers alike quickly learned that when learning or conducting classes remotely, a reliable high-speed internet connection is essential. That's why we need a skilled broadband deployment partner like Charter Communications to quickly build out their network to more Nebraska communities that need vital broadband connectivity.

Please take this opportunity to approve Charter's application so that we can rest assured in greater broadband connectivity in our state this year. Students, families, and businesses are all counting on much-needed broadband expansion in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Michael Apple
Superintendent
Conestoga Public Schools

Conestoga Inspires and Prepares Students for Life

Cole Wills
Assistant Jr./Sr. High Principal
& Activities Director

Lisa Bergmeyer
Director of Curriculum,
Instruction, & Assessment

Nick Krause
Director of
Student Services



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

February 21, 2023

Dear Chairman Watermeier,

The Pandemic shone a light on the need for equitable broadband access across the state of Nebraska. As Chief Information Officer for Educational Service Unit #3 I saw firsthand the need for this access and even as we moved back to in person learning the need is still evident. It is in that vein that the ESU #3 supports Charter Communications and their broadband efforts, but specifically the need in Cass County. It is our understanding that Charter will be applying for funds through the Public Service Commission and ESU #3 unequivocally supports the use of these grant dollars for this project.

In addition to the need for home access, In my role, I have perceived a lack of competition throughout the state when schools file for fiber access into Network Nebraska. It is imperative that Nebraska fosters competition for fiber access throughout the state. Providing competition could potentially save taxpayers millions of dollars while increasing bandwidth for schools and families.

When I started my career in 1999 internet access was considered a luxury and limited to labs and home dialup. In 2023 internet access needs to be ubiquitous. Students expect access wherever and whenever and teachers assign homework with the belief that exists. Charter Communications application will allow the state of Nebraska, specifically in rural areas, to be one step closer to attaining this vision.

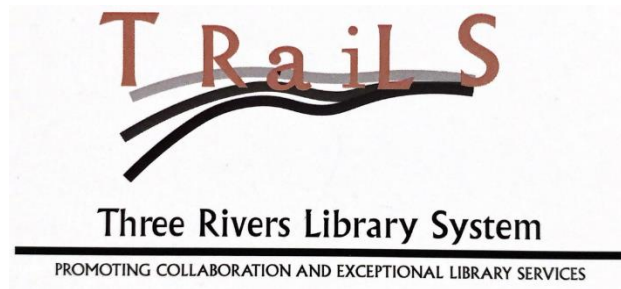
I would be happy to answer any questions, feel free to reach out to me with specific questions at any time. My email address is wpulte@esu3.org.

Sincerely,

William J Pulte

Chief Information Officer

Educational Service Unit #3



Tammi Thiem
Executive Director
11929 Elm Street, Suite 18
Omaha, NE 68144
402-330-7884

February 16, 2023

RE: Charter Communications (Spectrum) grant application for broadband

Dear Grant Selection Team:

Charter Communications, through Spectrum, has goals to construct fiber to the premises (FTTP) network to households in Cass County, primarily targeting the unincorporated areas located to the west and south of Plattsmouth. The Three Rivers Library System champions these efforts to increase digital access for all areas of Nebraska.

Many areas of Nebraska struggle to gain access to reliable internet services, and this is especially true in the rural areas. These services are necessary for all age groups, as children rely on internet for school assignments; young adults require internet for college education; adults need internet for job searches, continuing education, careers, and many numerous resources.

Creating fast and reliable internet services for the homes in Cass County would be life changing for the residents. It is imperative that this existing digital divide be corrected so that all people can experience the benefits that are not simply a luxury but are also necessary components of successful and productive lives and communities.

Providing funds for this broadband project in the Cass County area is vital and progressive, and the Three Rivers Library System supports all efforts towards its success.

Respectfully,

Tammi Thiem

February 23, 2023

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

Dear Chairman Watermeier:

The Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) is the economic development district serving Cass County, Nebraska, along with Sarpy, Douglas and Washington counties in Nebraska. MAPA is one of eight economic development districts in the state and is a member of the Nebraska Regional Officials Council (NROC). In July 2020, each NROC member applied for and was awarded funding through the CARES Act Recovery and Resiliency Grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to conduct a state-wide speed-test and mapping project to help identify additional unserved and underserved areas of need for broadband accessibility within our regions.

As a result of our efforts—and in collaboration with many other agencies, including the Nebraska Information Technology Commission—an application for a Statewide Digital Equity Planning Grant was submitted and awarded. Each development district, including MAPA, is working closely with the NITC to identify and prioritize needs related to accessibility, affordability and digital literacy within our regions. As part of this work, MAPA has narrowed focus to the highest unserved and underserved areas with the highest digital illiteracy and poverty rates. Much of Cass County is unserved or highly underserved—especially the rural, less populated areas. With 15 small communities and limited or spotty cellular coverage, Cass County is in dire need of reliable, high-speed internet.

From our understanding, Charter seeks to build a fiber-to-the-premise network in Cass County via Ethernet Passive Optical Network technology to offer broadband internet to households and businesses with speeds of up to 1 gig reciprocal service, scalable to higher speeds in the future. Pending funding, their project will serve 298 passings with the intention to complete the build within 18 months of execution of an agreement. Charter will offer standardized pricing that is equitable with four tiers of service: Spectrum Internet Assist (30/4), Spectrum Internet (300/10), Spectrum Internet Ultra (500/20) and Spectrum Internet Gig (1000/1000) service. Additionally, they participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) to assist those with financial burdens. Charter's Spectrum brand of companies, is a leading broadband connectivity company and cable provider serving approximately 178,000 customers in 90 Nebraska communities, including neighboring Otoe County.

The opportunity to expand affordable, reliable, high speed broadband service within Cass County is a priority for MAPA and Cass County leaders. On behalf of MAPA, we encourage the Commission to consider Charter's application favorably for Nebraska Capital Project Funding.

Sincerely,



Michael Helgersen, Executive Director

