



6/22/2002

Attn: Cullen Robbins
Director of the Telecom/NUSF Department
Nebraska Public Service Commission
1200 N Street, Ste. 300
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program with Cox Communications – SUPPORT

Dear Mr. Robbins,

Gateway Development is writing in strong support of Cox Communications' grant application to partner with the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program to bridge the digital divide effectively, sustainably, and equitably, by removing barriers and partnering to increase broadband adoption and deploy additional infrastructure to bring more Nebraskans online. Gateway's goal is to bring in new business and to help local businesses expand in Washington County, and without fiber and broadband it would not be possible.

The state of Nebraska wants to ensure that all its citizens have access to modern broadband speeds and the infrastructure needed to meet customer needs today and into the future; furthermore, when the time comes for new internet subscribers to connect, it's important they have the support they need to navigate the technology. Cox has a proven track record of partnering with organizations and community leaders to educate these individuals about programs such as Cox's Connect2Compete, ConnectAssist, and Digital Academy and the federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) designed to successfully connect them to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband service.

Expanding broadband access will not only open the door to new opportunities presented by our increasingly connected world like access to education, healthcare services, and employment opportunities, it will also lead to the creation of new jobs, population growth, higher rates of new business opportunities, and lower unemployment rates. Cox has a proven track record as an exceptional public-private partner through their work with non-profits and public entities and will no doubt bring that same level of partnership to Washington County.

I am confident that a partnership with Cox to remove barriers to broadband adoption and access will bring more Nebraskans online now. Cox's selection would result in a reliable and robust partner for the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program's efforts in the expansion of access to and adoption of high-quality, reliable internet services for all Nebraskans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Rooks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Rooks
Director of Washington County Economic Development
Gateway Development Corporation