

Attachment M Letters of Community Support Cox Communications

Letters of Community Support in Dodge County

In support of Cox Communication's infrastructure deployment goals within Dodge County, we received multiple letters of support from a variety of community stakeholders. All the letters expressed appreciation and support for Cox's submission and demonstrated a compelling level of need and lack of comprehensive coverage for reliable internet services, which Cox is hoping to bring to the County.

Cox local teams conducted outreach to members of the community through in-person engagements, email correspondence and direct phone communications. A copy of our sample letter of support is included following this page, in addition to the letters that the community provided.

<u>Letters of support from members of the community included in this submission:</u>

Government/Elected Officials

• State Senator Lynne Walz

Community Partners

- Seventy-Five North Revitalization Corporation
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands
- Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands
- United Way of the Midlands
- Habitat for Humanity
- Washington County Chamber of Commerce

Private Business

- Tenaska Inc.
- Weichman Pig Co, Inc.



2112 N. 30th Street Suite 200 Omaha, NE 68111

402.502,2770

www.seventyfivenorth.org

RE: Support for Cox Communications

To whom it may concern:

Seventy Five North Revitalization Corp. is writing in support of Cox Communications' commitment to expanding high-speed internet to underserved communities that lack reliable internet service and enhancing digital equity in areas of Cass, Colfax, Dodge and Sarpy counties. Cox will be providing Fiber-to-the-Home connectivity. Cox speeds and pricing available for these communities are advertised on the Cox Nebraska service site.

In addition to their affordability programs, described below, the Everyday Low-Price plan with WIFI 100 Mbps tier will be offered at \$49.99/month. Three additional pricing tiers are available for purchase and outlined on the website.

Today, Cox is a leading provider of broadband services with residential and commercial broadband speeds of up to 1 Gigabit broadband to residents and up to 100 Gigabit broadband to commercial accounts. For more than 40 years, Cox has been serving the needs of Nebraskans in nearby Omaha as a public-private partner with a proven track record. The Cox brand is well-recognized as a local technology leader and a company that is committed to the communities it serves. Cox has been providing services to homes and businesses via more than 5,000 miles of state-of-the-art fiber-optic and HFC (Hybrid Fiber Coaxial) delivering video, phone and high-speed Internet service to homes and businesses. They have demonstrated their commitment to advanced technology by investing significantly in network upgrades to deliver exceptional high-speed internet performance.

Board of Directors

Dana Washington
Boys Town

Meridith Dillon Frant Porch Investments

Eren Bock
The Sherwood Foundation

Dana Bradford Waith Brands

David Arnold
Builderfrend Solutions

Steven Jensen Steven Jensen Consulting

> Adam Steffen Wand and Associates

Bradley Ekwerekwu
The Learning Community



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Cox is also investing hundreds of millions in private capital to bring services to underserved homes across the country, either fully funded by Cox or in partnership with state, local, and federal governments. Cox has long been a critical partner in bridging the digital divide including: being the first to launch a discounted internet program for low-income families 10+ years ago with Connect2Compete, a \$9.95/month plan expanding its affordable internet options with ConnectAssist, a \$30/month plan for those receiving financial aid participating in the federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), enabling individuals eligible to receive internet at no-cost.

Through these initiatives, Cox has successfully connected millions of Americans through the breadth of Cox Digital Equity Programs. Cox has the local resources and knowledge, community support and engagement, and the backing of a financially secure private company to fund and support successful projects. They are more than a service provider, they're a community partner who is invested in our success.

Board of Directors

Dana Washington
Boys Town

Meridith Dillon
Front Porch Investments

Erin Bock
The Sherwood Foundation

Dana Bradford Walt Brands

David Arnold
Buildertrend Solutions

Steven Jensen Steven Jensen Consulting

> Adam Steffen Dand and Associates

Bradley Ekwerekwu
The Learning Community

Sincerely,

Cydney Franklin President/CEO

Seventy Five North Revitalization Corp.



1209 Harney Street Suite 110 Omaha, NE 68102

Phone: 402.330.2449 Fax: 402.330.2492

bbbsomaha.org

February 17, 2023

Nichole Turgeon President/CEO Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Midlands 1209 Harney St, Suite 100 Omaha, NE 68102

RE: Support for Cox Communications

Dear NE Broadband Office:

I am writing in support of Cox Communications' commitment to expanding high-speed internet to un-and-underserved communities that lack reliable internet service and enhancing digital equity in areas of Cass, Colfax, Dodge and Sarpy counties. Cox will be providing Fiber-to-the-Home connectivity.

Cox speeds and pricing available for these communities are advertised on the Cox Nebraska service site. In addition to their affordability programs, described below, the Everyday Low-Price plan with WIFI 100 Mbps tier will be offered at \$49.99/month. Three additional pricing tiers are available for purchase and outlined on the website.

Big Brothers Big Sisters provides one-to-one mentoring to youth in the Omaha/Council Bluffs metro area. The pandemic revealed to our organization just how serious the digital divide is in our service area. The youth and families in our program living in lower-income and/or underserved areas of our community struggled with lack of access to high-speed internet, especially when digital learning was required. We have been proud to partner with Cox to raise awareness of the Connect2Compete program with our families and we support Cox's continuing efforts to bridge the digital divide.

Today, Cox is a leading provider of broadband services with residential and commercial broadband speeds of up to 1 Gigabit broadband to residents and up to 100 Gigabit broadband to commercial accounts. For more than 40 years, Cox has been serving the needs of Nebraskans in nearby Omaha as a public-private partner with a proven track record. The Cox brand is well-recognized as a local technology leader and a company that is committed to the communities it serves.

Cox has been providing services to homes and businesses via more than 5,000 miles of state-of-the-art fiber-optic and HFC (Hybrid Fiber Coaxial) delivering video, phone and high-speed Internet service to homes and businesses. They have demonstrated their commitment to advanced technology by investing significantly in network upgrades to deliver exceptional high-speed internet performance. Cox is also investing hundreds of millions in private capital to bring services to un-and-underserved homes across the country, either fully funded by Cox or in partnership with state, local, and federal governments.



Cox has long been a critical partner in bridging the digital divide including:

- being the first to launch a discounted internet program for low-income families 10+ years ago with Connect2Compete, a \$9.95/month plan
- expanding its affordable internet options with ConnectAssist, a \$30/month plan for those receiving financial aid
- participating in the federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), enabling individuals eligible to receive internet at no-cost

Through these initiatives, Cox has successfully connected millions of Americans through the breadth of Cox Digital Equity Programs.

Cox has the local resources and knowledge, community support and engagement, and the backing of a financially secure private company to fund and support successful projects. They are more than a service provider, they're a community partner who is invested in our success.

Sincerely,

Nichole M. Turgeon President/CEO



State of Nebraska Nebraska Public Service Commission 1200 N Street, Suite 300 Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: Support for Cox Communications

To Whom It May Concern:

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands is writing in support of Cox Communications' commitment to expanding high-speed internet to un-and-underserved communities that lack reliable internet service and enhancing digital equity in the greater Omaha community. Cox will be providing Fiber-to-the-Home connectivity.

Cox speeds and pricing available for these communities are advertised on the Cox Nebraska service site. In addition to their affordability programs, described below, the Everyday Low-Price plan with WIFI 100 Mbps tier will be offered at \$49.99/month. Three additional pricing tiers are available for purchase and outlined on the website.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands offers a safe place for youth to learn, grow and have fun. The Clubs represent 60 years of service to youth. Dedicated staff at 14 metro-area locations and a summer camp provide activities and support to thousands of young people from kindergarten through high school graduation and beyond. Club sites are placed in targeted neighborhoods where the need is greatest.

Today, Cox is a leading provider of broadband services with residential and commercial broadband speeds of up to 1 Gigabit broadband to residents and up to 100 Gigabit broadband to commercial accounts. For more than 40 years, Cox has been serving the needs of Nebraskans in nearby Omaha as a public-private partner with a proven track record. The Cox brand is well-recognized as a local technology leader and a company that is committed to the communities it serves.

Cox has been providing services to homes and businesses via more than 5,000 miles of state-of-the-art fiber-optic and HFC (Hybrid Fiber Coaxial) delivering video, phone and high-speed Internet service to homes and businesses. They have demonstrated their commitment to advanced technology by investing significantly in network upgrades to deliver exceptional high-speed internet performance. Cox is also investing hundreds of millions in private capital to bring services to un-and-underserved homes across the country, either fully funded by Cox or in partnership with state, local, and federal governments.

Dorene & Lee Butler Family Youth Development Center Administrative Office 2610 Hamilton Street Omaha, NE 68131

P: (402) 342-1600 F: (402) 345-3154

bgcomaha.org





Cox has long been a critical partner in bridging the digital divide including:

- being the first to launch a discounted internet program for low-income families 10+ years ago with Connect2Compete, a \$9.95/month plan
- expanding its affordable internet options with ConnectAssist, a \$30/month plan for those receiving financial aid
- participating in the federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), enabling individuals eligible to receive internet at no-cost

Through these initiatives, Cox has successfully connected millions of Americans through the breadth of Cox Digital Equity Programs. In regards to Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands, Cox has provided expanded technology access for numerous of our Club locations.

Cox has the local resources and knowledge, community support and engagement, and the backing of a financially secure private company to fund and support successful projects. They are more than a service provider, they're a community partner who is invested in our success.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Donner

Chief Development Officer

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands

Dorene & Lee Butler Family Youth Development Center Administrative Office 2610 Hamilton Street Omaha, NE 68131

P: (402) 342-1600 F: (402) 345-3154

bgcomaha.org



2/21/2023

Keri Menage Public Affairs Specialist 11505 W. Dodge Rd Omaha, NE 68154

RE: Support for Cox Communications

Dear Ms. Menage:

Habitat for Humanity of Omaha is writing in support of Cox Communications' commitment to expanding highspeed internet to un-and-underserved communities that lack reliable internet service and enhancing digital equity in areas of Cass and Sarpy counties. Cox will be providing Fiber-to-the-Home connectivity.

Cox speeds and pricing available for these communities are advertised on the Cox <u>Nebraska service site</u>. In addition to their affordability programs, described below, the Everyday Low-Price plan with WIFI 100 Mbps tier will be offered at \$49.99/month. Three additional pricing tiers are available for purchase and outlined on the website.

Founded in 1984, Habitat Omaha builds and renovates homes, advocates for better laws and regulations and partners with those who share our vision, "A world where everyone has a quality, safe and healthy place to live." We started our work within the city of Omaha and expanded to the rest of Douglas, Washington, Burt, Cass, and Sarpy Counties – the latter two overlapping with Cox's planned expansion areas. By expanding our service area, we are able to increase the impact of our mission throughout the greater Omaha area. This means that more families gain access to financial and homeowner readiness programs, affordable home improvement solutions, and first-time homeownership opportunities as we help to grow and maintain our community's stock of quality, affordable homes.

Today, Cox is a leading provider of broadband services with residential and commercial broadband speeds of up to 1 Gigabit broadband to residents and up to 100 Gigabit broadband to commercial accounts. For more than 40 years, Cox has been serving the needs of Nebraskans in nearby Omaha as a public-private partner with a proven track record. The Cox brand is well-recognized as a local technology leader and a company that is committed to the communities it serves.

Cox has been providing services to homes and businesses via more than 5,000 miles of state-of-the-art fiber-optic and HFC (Hybrid Fiber Coaxial) delivering video, phone and high-speed Internet service to homes and businesses. They have demonstrated their commitment to advanced technology by investing significantly in network upgrades to deliver exceptional high-speed internet performance. Cox is also investing hundreds of







millions in private capital to bring services to un-and-underserved homes across the country, either fully funded by Cox or in partnership with state, local, and federal governments.

Cox has long been a critical partner in bridging the digital divide including:

- being the first to launch a discounted internet program for low-income families 10+ years ago with Connect2Compete, a \$9.95/month plan
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- participating in the federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), enabling individuals eligible to receive internet at no-cost

Through these initiatives, Cox has successfully connected millions of Americans through the breadth of Cox Digital Equity Programs.

Cox has the local resources and knowledge, community support and engagement, and the backing of a financially secure private company to fund and support successful projects. They are more than a service provider, they're a community partner who is invested in our success.

Sincerely,

Becky Vinton

Becky Vinton

Senior Development Officer





Aehraska State Legislature

SENATOR LYNNE WALZ

District 15
State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604
(402) 471-2625
lwalz@leg.ne.gov



COMMITTEES

Education
Health and Human Services
Education Commission of the States
Midwestern Higher Education Commission

Broadband Office Nebraska Public Service Commission 1200 N Street #300 Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: Support for Cox Communications

I am writing in support of Cox Communications' commitment to expanding high-speed internet to unand-underserved communities that lack reliable internet service and enhancing digital equity in areas of Dodge County including portions of Districts 1 and 3 and portions of the cities of Fremont and Scribner. Cox will be providing Fiber-to-the-Home connectivity.

Cox speeds and pricing available for these communities are advertised on the Cox Nebraska service site. In addition to their affordability programs, described below, the Everyday Low-Price plan with WIFI 100 Mbps tier will be offered at \$49.99/month. Three additional pricing tiers are available for purchase and outlined on the website.

Today, Cox is a leading provider of broadband services with residential and commercial broadband speeds of up to 1 Gigabit broadband to residents and up to 100 Gigabit broadband to commercial accounts. For more than 40 years, Cox has been serving the needs of Nebraskans in nearby Omaha as a public-private partner with a proven track record. The Cox brand is well-recognized as a local technology leader and a company that is committed to the communities it serves.

Cox has been providing services to homes and businesses via more than 5,000 miles of state-of-the-art fiber-optic and HFC (Hybrid Fiber Coaxial) delivering video, phone and high-speed Internet service to homes and businesses. They have demonstrated their commitment to advanced technology by investing significantly in network upgrades to deliver exceptional high-speed internet performance. Cox is also investing hundreds of millions in private capital to bring services to un-and-underserved homes across the country, either fully funded by Cox or in partnership with state, local, and federal governments.

Cox has long been a critical partner in bridging the digital divide including:

 being the first to launch a discounted internet program for low-income families 10+ years ago with Connect2Compete, a \$9.95/month plan

- expanding its affordable internet options with ConnectAssist, a \$30/month plan for those receiving financial aid
- participating in the federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), enabling individuals eligible to receive internet at no-cost

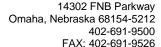
Through these initiatives, Cox has successfully connected millions of Americans through the breadth of Cox Digital Equity Programs.

Cox has the local resources and knowledge, community support and engagement, and the backing of a financially secure private company to fund and support successful projects. They are more than a service provider, they're a community partner who is invested in our success.

Sincerely,

State Senator Lynne Walz

District 15





6/22/2022

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:

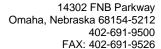
Tenaska is writing in strong support of Cox Communications' grant application to partner with the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program to bridge the digital divide effectively, sustainably, and equitably, by removing barriers and partnering to increase broadband adoption and deploy additional infrastructure to bring more Nebraskans online.

Tenaska serves more than 120 companies with differing needs throughout Nebraska, including businesses in Douglas County. Cox has not only proven to be a strong corporate citizen; they have also been instrumental in serving Tenaska with the connectivity we need.

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

We know first-hand the value that partnering with Cox brings to local business and the community. Cox's network allows for consumers and energy-based companies like ours to stay connected with affordable service offerings.

Most notably, Nebraska will realize an increase in economic vitality by partnering with Cox to deploy additional broadband infrastructure. Expanding broadband access will not only open the door to new opportunities presented by an 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 other parts of Douglas County and Nebraska.





I am confident that a partnership with Cox to remove barriers to broadband 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,

Jeremy Reinoehl VP of Information Technology Tenaska, Inc.



Shawna Forsberg President & CEO 2201 Farnam St. Ste 200 Omaha, NE 68102

RE: Support for Cox Communications

NE Broadband Office:

I am Shawna Forsberg, president and CEO of United Way of the Midlands, writing in support of Cox Communications' commitment to expanding high-speed internet to un-and-underserved communities that lack reliable internet service and enhancing digital equity in underserved areas. Cox will be providing Fiber-to-the-Home connectivity.

Cox speeds and pricing available for these communities are advertised on the Cox Nebraska service site. In addition to their affordability programs, described below, the Everyday Low-Price plan with WIFI 100 Mbps tier will be offered at \$49.99/month. Three additional pricing tiers are available for purchase and outlined on the website.

For 100 years, United Way of the Midlands (UWM) has served the Omaha-Council Bluffs metro by bridging the business and not-for-profit sectors to create a Circle of Support that helps our neighbors overcome difficult challenges and start building a better future. UWM's funded programs and direct services address social and economic disparities and meet families' essential needs such as healthy food, safe and stable housing, physical and mental health services, career preparation and job training.

Today, Cox is a leading provider of broadband services with residential and commercial broadband speeds of up to 1 Gigabit broadband to residents and up to 100 Gigabit broadband to commercial accounts. For more than 40 years, Cox has been serving the needs of Nebraskans in nearby Omaha as a public-private partner with a proven track record. The Cox brand is well-recognized as a local technology leader and a company that is committed to the communities it serves.

Cox has been providing services to homes and businesses via more than 5,000 miles of state-of-the-art fiber-optic and HFC (Hybrid Fiber Coaxial) delivering video, phone and high-speed Internet service to homes and businesses. They have demonstrated their commitment to advanced technology by investing significantly in network upgrades to deliver exceptional high-speed internet performance. Cox is also investing hundreds of millions in private capital to bring services to un-and-underserved homes across the country, either fully funded by Cox or in partnership with state, local, and federal governments.





Cox has long been a critical partner in bridging the digital divide including:

- being the first to launch a discounted internet program for low-income families 10+ years ago with Connect2Compete, a \$9.95/month plan
- expanding its affordable internet options with ConnectAssist, a \$30/month plan for those receiving financial aid
- participating in the federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), enabling individuals eligible to receive internet at no-cost

Through these initiatives, Cox has successfully connected millions of Americans through the breadth of Cox Digital Equity Programs.

Cox has the local resources and knowledge, community support and engagement, and the backing of a financially secure private company to fund and support successful projects. They are more than a service provider, they're a community partner who is invested in our success.

Sincerely,

Shawna Forsberg President & CEO

United Way of the Midlands



February 21, 2023

Brenda Orr Washington County Chamber Secretary

Owner, Orr Photography, Fort Calhoun, NE 5139 co. rd. p -37, Blair NE 68008 402 657 2145

RE: Support for Cox Communications

Dear NE Broadband Office:

The Washington County NE Chamber is writing in support of Cox Communications' commitment to expanding high-speed internet to un-and-underserved communities that lack reliable internet service and enhancing digital equity in areas of southern and other areas of the county. Cox will be providing Fiber-to-the-Home connectivity.

Cox speeds and pricing available for these communities are advertised on the Cox <u>Nebraska service site</u>. In addition to their affordability programs, described below, the Everyday Low-Price plan with WIFI 100 Mbps tier will be offered at \$49.99/month. Three additional pricing tiers are available for purchase and outlined on the website.

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In personal experience as a photographer I can upload photos to commercial services with awesome speed! I can give clients full resolution links to their galleries electronically. Typically, just to upload a gallery we have had to take a flash drive to another location to upload. Cox has saved me time and money. The service is great, the installers were nice AND super informative.

Sincerely,

Brenda Orr,

Washington County Chamber of Commerce, Secretary

OrrPhoto

402 657 2145



WIECHMAN PIG CO., INC.

P.O. Box 628 • Fremont, NE 68025-0628 Phone: 402-721-5115 • Fax: 402-721-7074

6/22/2022

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:

Wiechman Pig Company 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.

Wiechman Pig serves more than 27 businesses/customers with differing needs throughout the Dodge County, Nebraska and the Midwest; Cox has not only proven to be a strong corporate citizen, they've also been instrumental in serving us with the connectivity needed to support the agriculture community. Cox has engaged with us and continued to build an even stronger relationship.

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, its 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.

We know first-hand the value that partnering with Cox brings to local business and the community. Cox's network allows for consumers and Nebraska Businesses like ours to access up to gigabit speeds with numerous affordable service offerings.

Most notably, Dodge County will realize an increase in economic vitality by partnering with Cox to deploy additional broadband infrastructure. 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 the rest of Dodge County and other parts of Nebraska.

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,

Leo Hanson, President Wiechman Pig Co., Inc. Fremont, NE