

## 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.