



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