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*Tri County Public Schools*

72520 Hwy. 103, DeWitt, NE 68341

9/13/2021

TO: NBBP Selection Committee  
FROM: Dave Barnard, Tri County Schools Ag Education Instructor  
RE: Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program Grant

*David L. Barnard*

I instruct agriculture education and advise the Tri County FFA Chapter. Tri County is a very rural school district and my students depend on reliable internet and broadband service. As a teacher my position is the same. Not a night goes by that I have work using broadband service.

I recently learned that our hometown provider, Diller Telephone and Diode Cable, is applying for a grant to install fiber optic cable broadband service in front of my house! I live on a farm north of Ellis, Nebraska and this installation would be very much appreciated and needed. It would surely solve a lot of problems I currently have. The upgraded service speed would be very welcome.

I encourage the selection committee to give strong consideration for the Diller Telephone and Diode Cable grant application. Our rural communities need this type of investment. It would also be a positive step for education.