



Office of
Emergency Management Agency
And
Gage County Planning and Zoning

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To: Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program Selection Committee
From: Lisa Wiegand Director for Gage County Emergency Management | Gage County Planning & Zoning
Project: Diller Telephone/Diode Communications - West Ellis Project

[This letter is written in full support of Diller Telephone/Diode Communications and the West Ellis Project.](#)

Broadband Technology is a major component of the operations of Gage County Emergency Management & Gage County Planning and Zoning, which provides 24 /7 service in keeping the Citizens of Gage County, SouthEast Nebraska and Nebraska safe.

The West Ellis Project would be a huge improvement to the current service, which has several limitations due to broadband speed. Improvements to the service would greatly strengthen our capabilities including weather related events and deployment of emergency services, including activation of sirens, Deployment of Storm Spotters and First Responders, and real-time reporting. A few ways the improvements would enhance are:

- Increase capabilities accessing all weather events; including real-time updates with National Weather Service, and reporting activities throughout the storm timeline which include current weather activity reporting, tornadic / wind predictions, rainfall, snowfall, hail, flash flood reporting, Stream Gauges located on Turkey Creek and Blue River, etc.
- Faster connection with Public Service and Safety officials, without having to worry about delay of information needed to protect the health and safety of those involved.
- Faster connection allowing a quicker response time to notification systems for local and statewide resources to be deployed.
- Faster Connection for programing public alert notifications.
- Faster Connection for Video Conferencing allowing for greater flexibility of services offered in our rural area.
- Increase opportunities for out-reach programs

The West Ellis Project improvement would enhance the infrastructure that gives every household in our community access to a faster internet, regardless of the user.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions of how this project would improve our day-to-day Operations.

Respectfully,

Lisa K. Wiegand

Lisa K. Wiegand, Director

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by Diode Communications on behalf of

Thank you,

Lisa Wiegand, EM Director