

Nebraska State Legislature

SENATOR MYRON DORN

District 30
State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604
(402) 471-2620
mdorn@leg.ne.gov



COMMITTEES

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Building Maintenance

July 10, 2023

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

To whom it may concern:

This letter is in support for the Nextlink's grant application for the rural areas west of Cortland, Nebraska. In the past, I have served as a Gage County Supervisor for eight years and since 2018, I have had the honor of representing Gage County and a portion of Lancaster County as District 30's State Senator. Being an elected official at the local and now at the state level, has given me the opportunity to learn about the county and state needs as it relates to fiber connectivity and the lack of access to reliable broadband in underserved areas of the state.

The Nebraska Legislature is very aware of the gaps in broadband coverage across the state and is working to increase funding for better connectivity. The need to close the digital divide has become apparent in the wake of COVID-19 and the future of work, school, and communication in general have changed.

To stay competitive in the national and global marketplace, Nebraskans needs to be able to work remotely and have the ability to utilize distant learning and telehealth services. Businesses and residents in this rural area have had limitations with quality internet which puts them at a disadvantage. With a fiber project like this, there would be the potential for growth; not only with our rural residents but in giving workers the option to live where they choose. Access to affordable, high-quality internet has become a necessity for work, education, and health access. Again, I would like to convey my support for this project.

Thank you again for your consideration of this grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Myron Dorn".

Senator Myron Dorn