



# Board Of Supervisors – Of – Gage County

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Dear Members of the Public Service Commission –

We are writing to you today to give our support for Nextlink's Nebraska Broadband Bridge application for fiber in rural areas West of Cortland. Quality, high-speed internet has become essential to our constituent's daily lives; business, work, school, health, church, communication, television, news, agriculture, and so much more. Every day, there has become more and more of a reliance on internet which became extremely evident during COVID-19.

High-speed broadband is a huge economic tool for our communities. It allows people to come and live in our county while working across the world. Not only does it connect these rural residents with more job opportunities, it is also helping them utilize telehealth, children using remote learning, and farmers with precision agriculture. These are all important aspects of a families' life that will draw and/or keep them in our rural communities with more ubiquitous 100/100 or better internet service. It is a huge economic development tool for our county as better internet services connects our rural residents to the world.

Another benefit of Nextlink applying for this grant is that they are participants in the Affordable Conductivity Program. The need for internet access does not stop because a person has a lower income. Being able to utilize this program in these communities will help bridge the digital divide.

Please consider this application to help our rural residents stay and grow with a reliable broadband service.

Thank you,

Erich Tiemann  
Gage County Board of Supervisors