

Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc.
Fillmore County Project
Attachment M_2-Letters of Support

Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc. has signed letters of support from members within the Fillmore County project area showing their support for approval of Glenwood Telecommunications' grant application for Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program funding.



Fillmore County Board

PO Box 307, 900 G Street
Geneva, Nebraska 68361
Phone (402)759-4931 FAX (402)759-4307

Web: www.fillmorecounty.org

September 28, 2021

Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc.
510 West Gage Street
Blue Hill, NE 68930

To Whom it May Concern:

We are writing this letter of support for the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program funding being applied for by Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc.

Over the last year and a half, it has become very evident that there is a lack of sufficient and reliable internet in rural Fillmore County as well in all rural Nebraska. With many schools and businesses shut down due to the pandemic it became very evident that rural broadband needs to be improved while also enhancing the speed. Our everyday tasks and job functions depend heavily on reliable broadband connectivity.

Like everywhere, access to sufficient and reliable internet is very essential for all schools to continue quality education and businesses to continue their services as many rely on internet services for many daily functions. In County Government almost all services from issuing titles, renewing registrations, issuing marriage license, and paying the bills require sufficient bandwidth and reliable internet connectivity.

We are hopeful and excited about the possibility of enhancing the broadband within rural Fillmore County with the support of the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program. Your consideration of this project would enhance the internet within Fillmore County providing residents with reliable and sufficient broadband.

Sincerely,

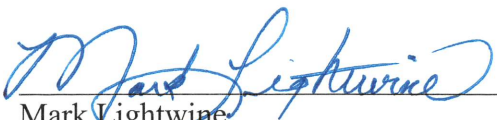
Fillmore County Board of Supervisors



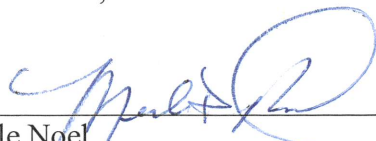
Jeff Neiman, Chairman



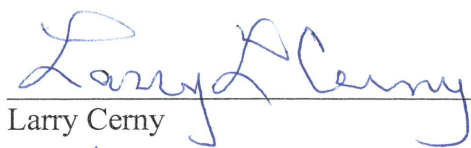
Wade Sluka, Vice Chairman



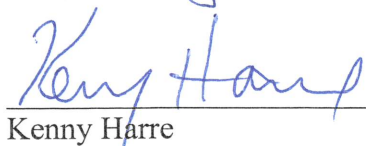
Mark Lightwine



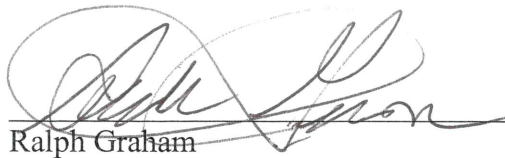
Merle Noel

Handwritten signature of Larry Cerny in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Larry Cerny

Handwritten signature of Kenny Harre in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Kenny Harre

Handwritten signature of Ralph Graham in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Ralph Graham



Shickley Public Schools

Rex Pfeil, Superintendent
Joshua L. Warren, Principal

P.O. Box 407
104 East Murray Street
Shickley, NE 68436
Telephone (402) 627-3375

To: Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc.
510 West Gage Street
Blue Hill, NE 68930

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter of support for the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program funding being applied for by Glenwood Telecommunications.

The need for a more robust and reliable internet has never been greater. Over the past year, the pandemic has altered our lives in a multitude of ways and exposed shortcomings in our ability to support students remotely during school shutdowns. We all depend on reliable broadband connectivity to perform everyday tasks. Nowhere has the digital divide been more obvious than in rural Nebraska. Economic incentives are needed now more than ever to expand reliable broadband access to underserved homes throughout rural Fillmore County.

Access to the internet, with sufficient bandwidth or reliability, is essential for the development of an information society; and lack of adequate broadband connectivity is preventing widespread use of the internet in education in our rural area. The internet helps educational administrators reduce costs and can improve the quality of education in many ways. It opens doorways to a wealth of information, knowledge, and educational resources, increasing opportunities for learning in and beyond the classroom. Teachers use online materials to prepare lessons, and students to extend their range of learning. Interactive teaching methods, supported by the internet, enable teachers to give more attention to individual students' needs and support shared learning.

I am hopeful that a fiber project in rural Fillmore County and Glenwood Telecommunications will receive your consideration. The ability for students and teachers to continue the educational process online as needed in and of itself makes this project vitally important for our community.

Sincerely,

Rex Pfeil, Superintendent
Shickley Public Schools



Exeter-Milligan Public Schools

318 S. River Ave
Exeter, NE 68351
(402) 266-5911

Memo

To: Nebraska Public Service Commission
From: Paul D. Sheffield, Superintendent
CC:
Date: 24 September 2021
Re: Letter of Support for Glenwood Telecommunications

This letter is in regard to a grant application for Glenwood Telecommunications in conjunction with Fillmore County. The approval of this grant would have a direct positive impact on Exeter-Milligan Public Schools and our students. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, remote learning became a reality. This reality, for some students, was a nightmare. We can document that some of our students did not have adequate internet bandwidth in order to properly receive their educational instruction. The approval of this grant would help provide a reliable and robust broadband network for rural Fillmore County students. Should the need arise, the approval of this grant to provide the fiber-optic network would position our students and staff to be successful in a remote learning environment. Exeter-Milligan Public Schools is 100% in support of this project.

Please contact me at the above address or email me at paul.sheffield@emwolves.net if you have any further questions.



FILLMORE CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FAIRMONT & GENEVA

To: Nebraska Public Service Commission
From: Josh Cumpston, Superintendent
Date: September 28th, 2021

SUPT OFFICE

1410 L Street
Geneva, NE 68361
P: 402.759.4955
F: 402.759.4038

HIGH SCHOOL

1410 L Street
Geneva, NE 68361
P: 402.759.3141
F: 402.759.4038

MIDDLE SCHOOL

950 F St, Box 157
Fairmont, NE 68354
P: 402.268.3411
F: 402.268.3491

ELEMENTARY

225 N 17th Street
Geneva, NE 68361
P: 402.759.3184
F: 402.759.3110

I am writing in support of increasing broadband in Fillmore County. During the closure of schools in the spring of 2020 the lack of reliable internet for some of our students and families became known. Some of our students in rural areas were not able to access classes during this time, or haven't since then if they have had to stay home due to isolation or quarantines.

Some of our families were able to have one child connect with classes, but not all of their children at the same time. We had synchronous classes so the only way a child could participate and learn was by having access when the class or lesson was being broadcast. Since all of this was happening between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., there were many times that children in the same household had overlapping remote learning schedules. Not all of the children in a house were able to get what they needed. Remote learning software like Zoom requires a lot of bandwidth and wouldn't always work.

I hope that through this grant opportunity our students and families will have better and easier access to their teachers. Even when we aren't closed down, so much learning takes place through the internet. Students have homework that requires research and sometimes watching an interview or other streamed information.

Thank you for considering Fillmore County as a recipient of this grant.

Josh Cumpston
Fillmore Central Public Schools
Superintendent

September 29th, 2021



Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc.
510 West Gave Street
Blue Hill, NE 68930

Re: Nebraska Broadband Bridge Grant

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express Fillmore County Hospital's support for the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Grant. Living in rural Fillmore County, the importance of highly efficient, operational internet services cannot be understated. There is a direct correlation to quality of life, happiness, and safety that makes this service particularly important for residents.

From the healthcare angle, there is a direct correlation between broadband and health outcomes. Increasingly, we are seeing a shift to alternative options to face-to-face medical care. In our organization, we have 5 specialty services that are delivered via telemedicine. I would expect that number to grow in the years ahead. It allows us to offer high demand sub-specialty care that we otherwise would not be able to offer to our local residents without having them travel to the Lincoln or Omaha metropolitan areas.

This grant serves as an important piece to ensure that the needs of Fillmore County will be met for years to come.

Sincerely,

Chris Nichols

CHRIS NICHOLS, CEO

FILLMORE COUNTY HOSPITAL

(402) 759-3167 • 1900 F STREET • GENEVA, NE 68361 • www.myfch.org

Fillmore County Hospital is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

trusted hearts touching lives

September 27, 2021

Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc.
510 West Gage Street
Blue Hill, NE 68930

To Whom it May Concern:

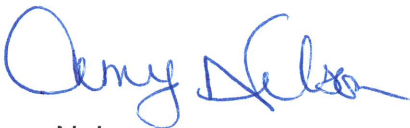
I am writing this letter requesting support of the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program funding being applied for by Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc.

In March 2020, my kids were sent home without much notice and were expected to attend school via zoom until May. I will say that the majority of the time, it worked having them attend school via zoom, but there were several times when they would have very low connectivity or would completely lose internet for a period of time.

As the kids are back in school it is still very evident that there is a need to enhance the internet service in the rural areas to provide the kids with a quality education. Teachers and students are using computers everyday whether it be in the classroom or for homework. Majority of teachers require students to complete their homework online versus printing out paper to submit. There are several websites that are used for education development, enhancing skills, and testing.

Please consider Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc. application for the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program as they are committed to the development and enhancement of sufficient, reliable, and robust broadband internet within rural Fillmore County.

Sincerely,



Amy Nelson



City of Geneva
167 S 10th Street
PO BOX 409
Geneva, NE 68361-0409

Phone 402.759.3109
Fax 402.759.3432
www.genevane.org

Eric Kamler
MAYOR
mayor@cityofgeneva.org

Kyle Svec
ADMINISTRATOR
ksvec@cityofgeneva.org

David Solheim
ATTORNEY
david@solheimlaw.com

September 27, 2021

Nebraska Public Service Commission
1200 N Street #300
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: Broadband Bridge Act Grant

To Whom it May Concern:

In 2021, we are all well-aware that broadband internet has become a necessity, not an amenity. As the Mayor of Geneva, I am proud to say that Glenwood Telecommunications has been outstanding in their effort to expand broadband internet into the city of Geneva.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to work with a progressive organization that understands rural economics and unique needs of smaller communities. Glenwood has been supportive of the community and has worked diligently to bring trustworthy connectivity to our rural area. However, there is still a need throughout much of Fillmore County.

Reliable, affordable, high-speed connectivity is fundamental for economic activity in all regions, and Fillmore County is no exception. In these uncertain times, our school systems continue to depend on electronic connectivity when in-person attendance isn't an option. High-speed internet is vital to our diverse industry and essential to modern communication.

I would encourage the Public Service Commission's approval for a Broadband Bridge Act Grant to better serve Fillmore County residents.

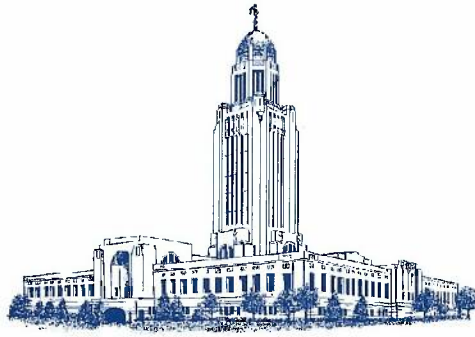
Respectfully,

Eric M. Kamler
Mayor

Nebraska State Legislature

SENATOR TOM BRANDT

District 32
State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604
(402) 471-2711
tbrandt@leg.ne.gov



COMMITTEES

Vice Chairperson - Agriculture
General Affairs
Judiciary
Building Maintenance

Nebraska Public Service Commission
1200 N Street, Suite 300
P.O. Box 94927
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Re: Broadband Bridge Program

September 29, 2021

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to encourage you to approve the request made by Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc. for funding under the Governor's LB388 Broadband Bridge Program throughout much of Fillmore County. All of Fillmore County lies in the 32th Legislative District, which I have the privilege of serving.

During my first term in office, I have been a strong proponent of facilitating public-private partnerships. I understand that Glenwood is actively working with both Fillmore County and the village of Shickley "to determine how to expeditiously deploy broadband infrastructure to best serve the needs of all locations in the Project footprint." That's roughly 325 rural Nebraskans who don't have broadband today. Glenwood's track record when it comes to serving all locations in its service territory is critical to my support for their application.

Not only have the public-private partners agreed to serve all locations, but they have agreed to cooperate to ensure that services will be affordable for all residents. What Glenwood has agreed to with Fillmore County and the village of Shickley is the type of collaboration we should be encouraging, and you can do so by approving Glenwood's application.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Brandt".

Senator Tom Brandt

November 10th, 2021

Nebraska Public Service Commission
1200 N Street #300
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program (NBBP)

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing this letter in support of Glenwood Telecommunications being awarded funding via the NBBP grant for work they would like to perform in Fillmore County.

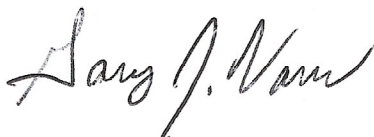
I've lived in rural Nebraska (McCool Junction and Milligan) for almost 20 years and the problem of being unserved or underserved by broadband services has always been an issue for us.

Since the pandemic hit, I've worked from home. We are currenting on our second internet service provider during this time due to slow and poor-quality internet. We've even paid extra for a cellular hotspot service that would be concerned as "underserved". Believe it or not, at times we have had both our wireless internet provider and our cellular data connections down. My job with OPPD requires that I have a higher speed and better-quality internet connection.

Rural Nebraska is in a fragile condition. As more and more people leave the rural areas for the "convivences" of the city, we need to look at what can be done to try and keep as many people remaining in these rural areas. Quality Rural Broadband will help keep people living in the rural areas as more opportunities for work from home will arise, running a business from home will be more possible, kids (and adults) will be able to attend class from home when necessary, plus the overall quality of life will be improved.

In conclusion, I would again like to voice my support in what Glenwood Telecommunications is proposing to implement in Fillmore County and would apricate The Commission giving them serious consideration as a receiver of the grant funds they requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary J. Vavra". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" being the most prominent part.

Gary J Vavra

VILLAGE OF SHICKLEY

P. O. Box 25, 102 N. Market St.
Telephone (402) 627-7885
Fax (402) 627-2085
villageofshickley@yahoo.com

September 27, 2021

Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc.
510 West Gage Street
Blue Hill, NE 68930

To Whom it May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to render a letter of support regarding the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program funding being applied for by Glenwood Telecommunications. While it has always been a goal of the Village Board to attain reliable and robust broadband service to attract remote-working families to Shickley, I didn't realize just how much of a handicap it was going to be to NOT have sufficient broadband service until the pandemic.

Windstream has not updated with the times. The internet speeds that they advertise, are not being received. Many of our community members subscribe to a wireless broadband provider, as their service is more reliable and, in the end, provide similar speeds. Lack of access to affordable and competitive telecommunications services continues to impede rural economic development in Nebraska. Fiber-optic telecommunications services will improve the quality of life and provide economic opportunities to the families and businesses in the Shickley community.

I am optimistic about the future of Shickley; this grant would enable us to take everything that is good about this community and make it better. Access to good broadband service will be the key to moving Shickley forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Domeier', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brock Domeier, Chairman
Village of Shickley