

Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc.
Glenwood & SCPPD Project
Attachment M_2 – Letters of Support

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



September 30, 2021

Jennifer Reiman, PHR
Director of Business Development - HR
Glenwood Telephone Membership Corporation
P.O. Box 97
Blue Hill, NE 68930

Dear Jennifer Reiman:

Letter of Support for Broadband Internet Grant

As Mayor of Clay Center, Nebraska and Business teacher at Sandy Creek Public Schools (a rural “cow pie high” in the middle of a field), I know first hand the importance of reliable, broadband internet! I am wildly supportive of your bid for a grant to improve internet access, reliability, and reach in Clay Country, Nebraska.

Education and communication has been greatly enhanced by technology and the internet, helping us at Sandy Creek meet our Mission to EDUCATE, SUPPORT, PREPARE Citizens of the World. Broadband internet would further enhance our ability to meet that lofty mission.

As Mayor, I have found that our City website (claycenterne.com), our Facebook page, and email have been our primary forms of communication. Again, broadband internet service would greatly benefit these communication methods, as well as provide an added benefit at our new aquatic center (where wi-fi is free), and the offerings at our award winning Clay Center Public Library.

Please let me know if I could provide any additional support for this critical service to Clay County

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nanette Shackelford'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nanette Shackelford
Mayor, Clay Center, NE
Sandy Creek Business Teacher



City of Harvard Nebraska

309 N. Clay Ave.
Harvard, Ne 68944

Phone: 402-772-7101
Fax: 402-772-7131

September 30, 2021

RE: Letter of Support
To: Glenwood Telephone Company
510 W Gage Street
Blue Hill, NE 68930

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this letter of support for the broadband access project being considered by Glenwood Telephone Company, I understand that this is being considered for financial support by a grant. I am both a resident of the City of Harvard and the Mayor of Harvard.

A project to address this issue would be very welcome and greatly enhance our ability to project quality educational experiences to students at home for other issues, like illnesses and other such absences from being physically present at school or shut downs due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

On a personal note, I also am excited to see another option for internet access to our homes. Some residents have struggled with quality of service and limited bandwidth for the past several years.

Better internet service would be a great benefit to our area businesses and the residents that need internet for work from home. Good internet is now a part of our lives and much needed also for running the city.

My excitement for such a project in the Harvard community is difficult to contain as I see so many valuable outcomes if these plans are able to come to fruition. I would be very happy to provide any other information that would be helpful, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Keith Ljunggren
Mayor
City of Harvard

City of Edgar

Pride of the Plains

P.O. Box 485
601 5th Street
Edgar, NE 68935
402-224-5145
Fax: 402-224-3055
CityofEdgar@yahoo.com

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to encourage you to approve requests made by South Central Public Power District in cooperation with private providers for funding under the LB388 Broadband Bridge Program. South Central has committed their own resources and are applying for this grant to offset some of their expenses.

The projects South Central are developing will be beneficial to serving the needs of residents in Clay and Nuckolls counties. They are working with others in the area, including counties, cities, economic development leaders and businesses. This would benefit our residents tremendously, we are a commute town but after Covid hit more and more are working from home. To have higher speeds of internet and more options would be great for our residents. Not only will these projects serve resident's businesses in towns and villages, but also rural areas as well. I believe this partnership will be critical to ensuring the residents of Clay and Nuckolls counties have access to education, health care, and other services essential to the sustainability of rural areas.

Brad Brenfoerder, Mayor of Edgar

September 30, 2021

Ms. Jennifer Reiman, PHR
Director of Business Development-HR
Glenwood Telephone Membership Corporation
PO BOX 97
Blue Hill, NE 68930

Dear Ms. Reiman,

Thank you for the opportunity to write a letter of Evidence of Needs in regard to the lack of broadband service in our town. While more jobs and classes are moving online the importance of having reliable internet service has been exposed. Not having sufficient internet has handicap the town growth by not providing sufficient services for people in our town.

Since being Chairman of the Village of Glenvil, I have been searching for different companies to provide us with reliable internet to be able to complete our day-to-day task. We have improved some quality but are still looking for fast and reliability broadband.

When the pandemic hit, we had several people not wanting to expose themselves at the doctor office and tried to do telehealth. When people attempted to do telehealth to lessen the curve, they were unsuccessful because of the quality of broadband. They then had to go to the doctor's office and expose themselves and putting themselves and others in town more at risk.

I am a property adjuster who works part-time from my home office. Normally, I can complete a task working from home. It does take longer than if I am at one of the offices. When the pandemic hit, we worked more from home and my biggest obstacle was trying to get work completed. I would have to work off hours or late at night just to complete simple task for work and kids struggled with uploading homework and participating in online classes.

I feel very optimistic of where are town is heading and having more reliable broadband is the key for us turning the corner and keep moving our town and other small towns forward.

Respectfully,

Matt Whitten
Village of Glenvil-Chairman

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 a request made by South Central Public Power District (SCPPD) and Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc. for funding under the LB388 Broadband Bridge Program. The public-private partnership that SCPPD and Glenwood are establishing is exactly the type of bold innovation this state needs to accelerate the pace of rural broadband deployment.

During my first term in office, I have led efforts to break down obstacles to rural broadband development. Glenwood and SCPPD are developing a unique model for public-private partnerships in Nebraska. Both partners have strong records of serving rural areas. Glenwood and SCPPD sat down with me and impressed me with their commitment to work through the tough questions, like ownership, collocation, and lease arrangements in order to serve rural customers who have been neglected by current providers.

Customer-by-customer boundary changes will not bring broadband to rural Nebraska in a meaningful way. We need to work more swiftly and tackle larger areas with smart, cost-effective deployment projects, and serve as many people as we can without abandoning remote locations. We need to get entire exchanges served. If adequate funding is obtained through the Broadband Bridge Program, this project would provide high-speed service to nearly 2,200 customers in Clay, Nuckolls and Webster counties. In addition to rural customers, it would connect residents of several cities and villages, and would serve as a model for rural Nebraska broadband development. Please encourage this type of big-thinking collaboration by approving Glenwood's and SCPPD's application.

Yours sincerely,

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

Nebraska State Legislature

SENATOR DAVE MURMAN

District 38
State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604
(402) 471-2732
dmurman@leg.ne.gov



COMMITTEES

Education
Health and Human Services
Committee on Committees

September 24, 2021

Hand Delivered

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

Re: Broadband Bridge Program

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to encourage you approve requests made the South Central Public Power District and Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc. for funding under the Governor's LB388 Broadband Bridge Program. Both partners are based in my district. First, I would like to commend the Public Service Commission on the work you have done developing guidelines for this important program on very short notice.

I support the requests made by SCPPD and Glenwood because the projects they are developing will serve the needs of residents of Clay, Nuckolls, and Webster counties, each of which I represent as a state Senator. I am pleased the two partners are working with others in the area, including counties, cities, various businesses, and economic development leaders. Not only will these projects serve residents businesses in towns and villages, but also rural areas as well. Both applicants have demonstrated records of serving the needs of rural Nebraskans. This unique and innovative public-private partnership will be critical to ensuring that the constituents of District 38 have access to education, health care, and other services essential to the sustainability of rural areas.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Murman".

Senator Dave Murman
District 38



Jennifer Reiman, PHR
Director of Business Development- HR
Glenwood Telecommunications
PO Box 97
Blue Hill, NE 68930

September 30, 2021

To whom it may concern,

It is our pleasure to write a letter of support in Glenwood Telecommunication's efforts to obtain grant funding to enhance and improve broadband capabilities within Clay County and Nuckolls County. Since the start of 2021, South Central Economic Development District (SCEDD) has been in collaboration with the Nebraska Regional Officials Council (NROC), to map broadband speeds within our 13 county region. This data has been provided to Glenwood Telecommunications (Glenwood) to assist in identify unserved and underserved areas in their service areas most in need of broadband improvements.

SCEDD staff interviewed many community leaders and business owners throughout fall of 2020 to discuss efforts around recovery and resiliency concerning the economic disruption and the Covid-19 pandemic. These discussions highlighted a need for better broadband capabilities to allow for remote work, education, telehealth, and improvements in precision agriculture abilities. With improvements to broadband service, SCEDD determined our rural communities would be better positioned to attract and retain workforce and potential industry through enhanced quality of life measures, now an expected standard for any household and business.

The majority of the speed test data points in the Clay County and Nuckolls County area show speeds below the federal minimum standard of 25/3 mbps. A few data locations reported approximately 55/55 mbps and these were logically able to be identified as large businesses or part of the school system's broadband service. If Glenwood is awarded this grant funding it would address this disparity in broadband speed many rural community members experience, while improving the capacity of the businesses to flourish in this area and improving access to vital education and healthcare resources to residents.

Glenwood is a well-known and established service provider within the SCEDD region that has funded expansion of broadband capabilities to many rural areas, including fiber connections. We are confident that their organization has the best interest of the residents of Clay County and Nuckolls County in mind with their efforts to extend their service reach. We believe if awarded the grant that the impact of their broadband improvements will have long lasting benefits for the region's education, economy, telehealth and precision ag capabilities; all contributing to residents' quality of life and future growth in the area.

Thank you for your consideration of this grant application. Our organization is available to provide any further insights from research into the digital divide within our 13 county region.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sharon Hueftle".

Sharon Hueftle, Executive Director
South Central Economic Development District Inc.