

Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc.
Kearney County
Attachment M_2 – Letters of Support

Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc. has secured letters of support from State and Community Leaders on behalf of the Kearney County project area, affirming their endorsement for the approval of Glenwood's grant application for Capital Projects Funds-2.

Nebraska State Legislature

SENATOR STEVE HALLORAN

District 33
State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604
(402) 471-2712
shalloran@leg.ne.gov



COMMITTEES

Chair - Agriculture
Business and Labor
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

January 3, 2024

Nebraska Public Service Commission
1200 N Street, Suite 300
P.O. Box 94927
Lincoln, NE 68509-4927

RE: Capital Projects Fund

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to encourage you to approve the requests made by Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc., for funding under the Capital Projects Fund Program throughout parts of Adams County and Kearney County that lie in the 33rd Legislative District, which I have the privilege of serving.

Glenwood is actively working with Adams County and Kearney County “to determine how to expeditiously deploy a fiber-optic broadband infrastructure to best serve the needs of all the locations in the Project footprint.” The three proposed projects include a number of rural Nebraskans who are currently classified as *unserved*. Glenwood’s track record, when it comes to serving all locations in its service territory, is critical to my support for their applications.

I respectfully ask the Commission to take a careful look at the track records of those that apply for grant monies under the Capital Projects Fund Program. Please make sure that the funding under the NUSF and the Capital Projects Program get used to provide high-speed broadband access to those areas of the state that are currently not being served and to those that need it most. I believe Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc., can be trusted to spend taxpayer dollars in a fiscally responsible way that will get the job done in a timely and efficient manner.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Halloran".

Steve Halloran
District 33

Kearney County Board of Commissioners

P. O. Box 339

Minden, NE 68959-0339

phone 308/832-2723

fax 308/832-2729



Chairman

Brent Stewart
District No. 5
Minden, Nebraska

Board Members

Jason Sinsel
District No. 1
Minden, Nebraska

Nathan Avery
District No. 2
Minden, Nebraska

Robert M. Swanson
District No. 3
Wilcox, Nebraska

Larry E. Landstrom
District No. 4
Axtell, Nebraska

James W. Miller
District No. 6
Minden, Nebraska

Heath Hofstetter
District No. 7
Minden, Nebraska

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

RE: Capital Projects Fund

January 2, 2024

Dear Nebraska Public Service Commissioners:

We are writing this letter to express our full support for the Capital Projects Fund-2 grant application submitted by Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc. We believe that the proposed project holds significant potential to address the pressing issue of insufficient and unreliable internet access in rural areas of Kearney County, as well as in most of rural Nebraska.

Over the past few years, it has become increasingly evident that the existing telecommunications infrastructure (in this proposed project area) is incapable of meeting the growing demand for higher broadband speeds within homes and businesses. This deficiency not only poses a threat to the sustainability of our population but also serves as a hindrance to the overall growth of our community.

Recognizing the importance of robust and reliable internet connectivity, we are optimistic about the prospect of enhancing broadband services in rural Kearney County through the support of the Capital Projects Fund-2 grant. We firmly believe that this initiative has the potential to address the existing gaps in our telecommunications network, thus ensuring that our constituents have access to dependable and efficient broadband services.

We appreciate your careful consideration of this project and the positive impact it could have on our community. By investing in this venture, you will contribute significantly to the improvement of telecommunication services within our County, providing our residents with the essential infrastructure needed for both personal and economic development. We look forward to the positive outcomes that the implementation of this project could bring to our rural community.

Sincerely,

KEARNEY COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Brent Stewart
Chairman



January 11, 2024

Cullen Robbins
Director – NUSF Telecommunications
Nebraska Public Service Commission
1200 N St., 300 The Atrium
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Cullen,

South Central Economic Development District, Inc. (SCEDD) fully supports the Glenwood Communications application for the Capital Projects Fund-2 (CPF) for Kearney County to serve 59 locations. We continue to work closely with Glenwood and other providers to examine areas in our 13-county region for potential projects to deploy broadband fiber development, prioritizing the *unserved* rural residents. SCEDD spoke on behalf of the projects at a recent Kearney County Commissioners meeting, further stressing the importance of building out fiber to all residents to improve quality of life measures. SCEDD shared feedback from constituents that there are no providers offering quality reliable internet service at minimum speeds of 25Mbps/3Mbps to many if not all these identified households. Kearney County commissioners demonstrated their awareness of the need and voted to support this broadband initiative.

Glenwood is a well-known and established service provider within the SCEDD region that continues to meet promised expectations for delivery of high speed internet with a solid record for past performance. They have funded expansion of broadband capabilities to many rural areas. We are confident their organization has the best interests of the residents of Kearney County in mind with this effort to extend their service area. Glenwood's match contribution is a testament to their business plan to continue investing in local communities for the long-term, while prioritizing broadband fiber access as the gold standard to service areas.

The customer monthly rates Glenwood offers are well within the established CPF-2 affordable guidelines, while still providing the 100 Mbps/100Mbps or greater broadband internet service to their current service areas. Additionally, Glenwood is a participant in the FCC's Affordability Connectivity Program for the monthly discount to qualified households, further demonstrating their commitment to providing quality internet services to all.

SCEDD is confident this CPF-2 grant application serves the unserved rural residents well of Kearney County in the proposed project service area. Broadband infrastructure improvements to this rural area will promote economic development in the areas of housing, agriculture, and business. We are excited to see the Kearney County rural residents served with this vital funding from the Public Service Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sharon Hueftle". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Sharon Hueftle
Executive Director