

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

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

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

June 7, 2022

Nebraska Public Service Commission
1200 N Street, Suite 300
P.O. Box 94927
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-4927

Re: Broadband Bridge Program

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to encourage you to approve a request made by the Phelps County Board of Commissioners and Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc. for funding under the LB 1144 Broadband Bridge Program. Both of the requestors are based in my district. First, I would like to reiterate my commendation of the Public Service Commission for the work you have done developing guidelines for this important program.

I support the request made by the commissioners and Glenwood because the project they are developing will serve the needs of residents in Phelps County, a portion of which I represent as a state Senator. Both applicants have proven records of serving the needs of rural Nebraskans. This project 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 that reads "Dave Murman".

Senator Dave Murman
District 38



PHELPS COUNTY

Courthouse • 715 5th Ave. • P.O. Box 404
Holdrege, Nebraska 68949-0404
(308) 995-4469

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

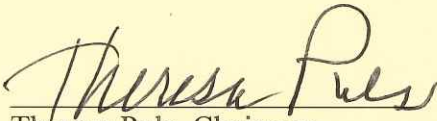
RE: Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program (NBBP)


To Whom it May Concern,

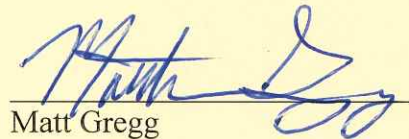
The Phelps County Commissioners are in full support of the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program grant application being submitted to the Public Service Commission by Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc.

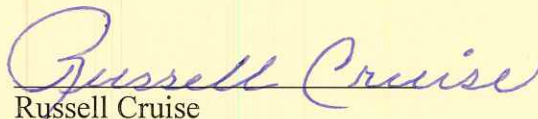
Currently we feel there is a lack of infrastructure and availability of reliable high-speed internet capabilities in rural Phelps County. A fiber network would afford both the residents and businesses of rural Phelps the opportunities to work and learn from home as well as grow the local economy.

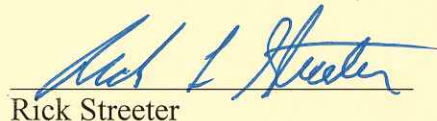
We are hopeful and excited about the possibility of enhancing the broadband within rural Phelps County with the support of the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program. Your consideration of this project would enhance the internet within Phelps County providing residents with reliable and sufficient broadband.

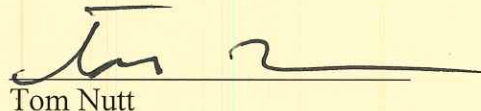

Theresa Puls, Chairman

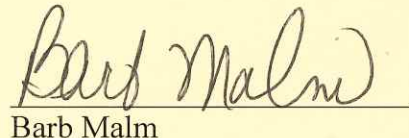

Dennis Ostgren


Matt Gregg


Russell Cruise


Rick Streeter


Tom Nutt


Barb Malm



June 6, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Development of and access to broadband is equivalent to the emergence of electrical transmission grids more than a century ago – it could be transformational if we make the necessary investments. Failing to do so will result in the evaporation of opportunity and eventually the rural population.

Reliance on technology in smaller communities and rural areas is growing exponentially, especially in production agriculture where automated systems are increasingly being used. Beyond that, established companies in Phelps County require cutting edge connectivity to global markets to conduct business.

PCDC has a long, productive relationship with Glenwood Telecommunications, whom we support and recommend receiving funding through the Nebraska Broadband Bridge program. The company serves communities throughout southern Nebraska and has experience dealing with civic leadership and the unique challenges of rural areas.

With deployment of broadband more densely in our area we will improve the appeal for not only businesses seeking to compete, but we also expect to see more families choose to relocate here. PCDC actively recruits people using the catch phrase: If You Can Work From Anywhere, Live Here.

We applaud the prioritization of broadband investment and support Glenwood's application to receive funding from the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Tillery". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ron" and last name "Tillery" clearly distinguishable.

Ron Tillery
Executive Director

308.995.4148 Office
308.995.4158 Fax

pcdc@PhelpsCountyNE.com
www.PhelpsCountyNE.com
#Grow37

502 East Avenue, Suite 201
Holdrege, NE 68949





June 10, 2022

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 Phelps County Board of Commissioners and Glenwood Communications partnership application for the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program (NBBP). We have worked closely with both entities to discuss and fully examine the options for broadband fiber development for rural residents of Phelps County. Their commissioners have actively participated in SCEDD and Nebraska Regional Officials' Council (NROC) hosted events to educate and empower local leaders on broadband build-out opportunities. Phelps County commissioners have demonstrated their awareness of the need and commitment to expand broadband service to rural residents.

The \$250,000 contribution of Phelps County ARPA funding was made after close examination of their rural residents' broadband needs and current service and in consideration of many competing projects for the funds. Glenwood's \$50,000 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 for their service areas. Their current customer monthly rates are well within the established NBBP affordable guidelines, while still providing the 100 Mbps/100Mbps or greater broadband internet service to their current service areas.

SCEDD is confident this NBBP grant application serves the underserved rural residents of Phelps 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 Phelps County rural residents served with this vital funding from the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program.

Sincerely,

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

To whom it may concern:

Being able to get Broadband in rural Phelps Co would be very beneficial. Currently in our home we rely on our phones Wi-fi for internet. If it is a cloudy day you can count on getting no service.

Getting Broadband into our home would benefit us greatly:

- We have 3 school aged kids that need to be able to do research and projects
- We run a farming operation
- This would allow for us to work from home when needed
- Would make doing our books faster as we could download the transactions and not manually enter them
- Kids would love it for their ipads
- Would be able to stream movies and so much more

This is just a fraction of the things that would use this service for. Please consider granting Phelps Co the funding.

Thanks-

Travis and Jessie Powley

Holdrege Public Schools

Empowering ALL Students For Success

www.dusters.org

P.O. Box 2002 • Holdrege • Nebraska • 68949-2002

An Equal Opportunity Agency

June 6, 2022

RE: Phelps County and Glenwood Telecommunications - NBBP Grant Application

Phelps County Commissioners,

This letter is written in support of the Glenwood Telecommunications application for the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program.

The HPS Administration and Board of Education are aware of unequal broadband service throughout Phelps County, which includes areas severely underserved, as well as others lacking quality service. As school district leaders, we feel that high quality broadband service is important from an educational perspective so that all of our students can benefit and have similar opportunities. In some instances, families, teachers, and the entire school community learned this difficult lesson when our district was forced to shut down in spring 2020. The inequities among students became very obvious quickly.

Our daily lives have also become dependent upon quality broadband services for various community services. The safety of our students and staff is a primary focus - from established safety practices to inclement weather and road conditions communications, law enforcement, and emergency medical services support. The lack of quality broadband service increases risk and response time.

In summary, quality broadband service has become a necessity in our lives, and we wholeheartedly support the Glenwood Telecommunications application for the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program to give all of our families the equal playing field that they deserve in today's world.

Sincerely,

Todd Hilyard

Todd Hilyard
Superintendent of Schools

Central Office
Phone • (308) 995-8663
Fax • (308) 995-6956
Todd Hilyard, Superintendent

Holdrege High School
Phone • (308) 995-6558
Robert Drews, Principal
Dylan Sullivan, Activities Director
Julie Freburg, Guidance
Phone • (308) 995-8988

Holdrege Middle School
Phone • (308) 995-5421
Angela Girard, Principal

Holdrege Elementary School
Phone • (308) 995-4339
Amber Porter, Principal

**Holdrege Public Schools
Special Services and
Early Childhood Education**
Phone • (308) 995-4048
Shana Orr, Director



EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT NO. 11

412 W. 14th Ave. • P.O. Box 858
Holdrege, NE 68949-0858

Telephone (308) 995-6585 • Fax (308) 995-6587 • esu11.org

June 3, 2022

Glenwood Telecommunications
510 West Gage Street
Blue Hill, NE 68930

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as my support for Glenwood Telecommunications' application for funding as part of the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program.

ESU 11 area students are very fortunate to have 1:1 device initiatives that allow them to use devices both in school and at home. However, many students, especially those in our rural areas, struggle to find affordable and reliable broadband access. We are hopeful that through efforts such as these that our students will have access to quality broadband services that will enhance their educational experience. Having access to these services is vital to the success of our students.

Glenwood has a longstanding history of serving the telecommunications needs of communities in rural Nebraska. They are not a faceless organization with corporate offices in far off places. They are active members of our communities and have a vested interest in seeing these initiatives succeed.

If I can be of any other assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Cordially,

Wade Gibson
Media & Technology Coordinator



Central Community College maximizes student and community success

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

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Central Community College (CCC), I am writing to voice our support of Glenwood Telecommunication's application for Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program funding.

The need for a more robust & reliable internet has never been greater. Over the past two years, the pandemic has altered our lives in a multitude of ways. 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 Thayer 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 internet in education in our rural area. CCC serves Phelps county with a physical learning center located in Holdrege, online courses, and high school juniors and seniors with early college programming. In the current academic year, 239 juniors and seniors from communities in Phelps county were enrolled in early college courses. All of these students, whether attending classes in person, in high school, or online require reliable internet service in their homes to complete homework and access learning materials.

The internet improves 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 the fiber project in rural Phelps County as proposed by 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,

DocuSigned by:

Matthew Gotschall

173E41857A77455...

Dr. Matthew Gotschall
College President

College Administration 3134 W Highway 34 PO Box 4903 Grand Island, NE 68802 (308) 398-4222	Columbus 4500 63rd St. PO Box 1027 Columbus, NE 68602 (402) 564-7132	Grand Island 3134 W Highway 34 PO Box 4903 Grand Island, NE 68802 (308) 398-4222	Hastings 550 S Technical Blvd PO Box 1024 Hastings, NE 68902 (402) 463-9811	Holdrege 1308 2nd St. PO Box 856 Holdrege, NE 68949 (308) 995-8133	Kearney 1215 30th Ave. PO Box 310 Kearney, NE 68848 (308) 338-4000	Lexington 1501 Plum Creek Pkwy. PO Box 827 Lexington, NE 68850 (308) 324-8480	Ord 1514 K St. Ord, NE 68862 (308) 728-3299
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Central Community College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

Toll-free, all locations: 1-877-222-0780 • www.cccneb.edu

415 Lincoln St.
P.O. Box 740
Holdrege, NE 68949-0740



CENTRAL
Nebraska Public Power
and Irrigation District

Phone: (308) 995-8601
Fax: (308) 995-5705
Web: www.cnppid.com

June 7, 2022

Nebraska PSC
1200 N St. #300
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program

Dear NPSC Commissioners,

I am writing this letter of support for the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program funding being applied for by Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc. on behalf of rural Phelps County.

Reliance on technology in smaller communities and rural areas is growing exponentially, especially in production agriculture where automated systems are increasingly being used. Beyond that, established companies in Phelps County require cutting edge connectivity to global markets to conduct business.

With the deployment of broadband more densely in our area we will improve the appeal for not only businesses seeking to be competitive or new businesses to relocate, but we also hope to see more families choose Phelps County for their home.

This grant serves as an important piece to ensure that the needs of rural Phelps County will be met for years to come. I would encourage the Public Service Commission's approval for a Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program grant to better serve rural Phelps County residents.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Eric R. Hixson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Eric Hixson, P.E.
Elect. Proj. Op. Mgr.



June 15, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Development of broadband access within our community is essential to our efforts to grow within Phelps County. BD relies on technology to be successful. In today's marketplace, we need to have options for our associates to work from home while staying connected to our overall network.

In addition to the direct benefit to our facility, solid internet connectivity is one of the identified needs in our recruiting efforts. More people will consider Phelps County as a place to live having this enhanced connection to these services.

BD strongly supports Glenwood Telecommunications receiving funding through the Nebraska Broadband Bridge program.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jason J. Sidel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jason J. Sidel

*Plant Manager, Holdrege
Medication Delivery Solutions*

jason.sidel@bd.com

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