

Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc.
Thayer County
Attachment M – Letters of Support

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

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

Natural Resources
Transportation and Telecommunications

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

RE: Broadband Bridge Program

June 1, 2023

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to encourage you to approve the request made by Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc. for funding under the Governor's LB1144 Broadband Bridge Program throughout much of rural Thayer County. All of Thayer County lies in the 32nd 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 Thayer County "to determine how to expeditiously deploy broadband infrastructure to best serve the needs of all locations in the Project footprint." That's roughly 76 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 Thayer County 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 black ink that reads "Tom Brandt".

Senator Tom Brandt
Legislative District 32

Thayer County Commissioners
225 N 4th St. Room 201
402-768-6693

Dean Krueger
7119 Road H
Hebron, NE 68370

Marlin Bauhard
440 N 5th Street
Hebron, NE 68370

Rich Koch
5943 Road N
Hebron, NE 68370

June 6, 2023

Glenwood Telecommunications Inc.

510 West Gage Street

Blue Hill, NE 68930

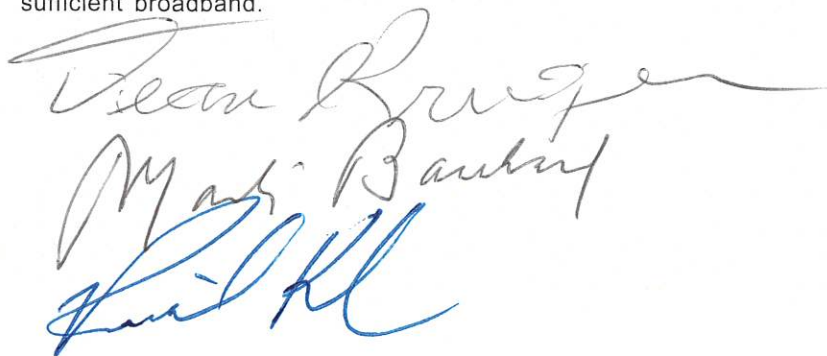
To Whom it May Concern:

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 Thayer County, as well as 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 and sales for many daily functions. In County Government almost all services from issuing titles, renewing registrations, issuing marriage licenses, 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 Thayer County with the support of the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program. Your consideration of this project would enhance the internet within Thayer County providing residents with reliable and sufficient broadband.



Dean Krueger
Marlin Bauhard
Rich Koch



June 22, 2023

RE: Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program, Round 3

To Whom it May Concern:

The Southeast Nebraska Development District (SEND D D) is pleased to extend its support to Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc.'s Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program, Round 3 application for fiber optic broadband infrastructure deployment in Thayer County.

SEND D D has supported the Thayer County Broadband Action Team (BAT) since its formation approximately 15 months ago. Led by Carley Bruning and Thayer County Economic Development Alliance (TCEDA), this diverse group of residents, business owners, educators, and local officials worked to assess the need for additional broadband investment in the county and engaged ISPs to develop projects to improve connectivity. Glenwood engaged the Thayer BAT shortly after its creation and has since maintained a strong ongoing relationship that has helped inform this proposed project.

This project will address a significant need for rural broadband access. Thayer County is among the region's least-served areas: based on the latest FCC BDC data, over 25% of locations are unserved and 11% of locations are underserved. This project will measurably increase that number by connecting 76 unserved locations. Not only will this connectivity bring immediate benefit to residents and businesses in the area, but it will also set the stage for future economic growth, resident attraction, and sustainability for years to come. Glenwood's steadfast commitment to digital inclusion and equity through their participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program and comparably low monthly rates ensures all Thayer County residents, and especially those unserved rural locations impacted by this project, will be able to afford quality broadband service.

Glenwood's continued engagement of the Thayer BAT and development of this public-private partnership sets a valuable precedent for continued efforts to connect rural Nebraskans to reliable, high-speed broadband. SEND D D backs this project proposal with enthusiasm and urges the Public Service Commission to approve this application.

Sincerely,

Tom Bliss

Executive Director

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7407 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68510
Office: 402-475-2560

www.sendd.org



AUBURN OFFICE
919 Central Avenue
Auburn, NE 68305
Office: 402-862-2201

SEND D D is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

June 6, 2023

RE: Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program



Dear NPSC Commissioners,

The Thayer County Economic Development Alliance (TCEDA) supports Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc. application for Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program to increase the miles of fiber in rural Thayer County. This will result in connecting rural homes to fiber as the first step to designing another phase of build-out in five underserved Thayer County communities.

Because Thayer County is one of the least served areas in Nebraska according to the most recent FCC data, TCEDA has been working together with Thayer County Commissioners to bring better connectivity to our residents. With this partnership along with many stakeholders across the county, a Broadband Action Team (BAT) was formed in Spring 2022 to assess the data and needs while working towards solutions. Through this, the Thayer County Commissioners approved to contribute \$500,000 ARPA funds for this application.

Our county is powered by businesses and families choosing to thrive in rural areas. Reliance on technology is growing exponentially, especially in production agriculture where automated systems are increasingly being used. Beyond that, established companies in Thayer County require cutting edge connectivity to global markets to conduct business and the cost of doing business in Thayer County out ranks most counties in Nebraska.

The deployment of broadband more densely in our area aids TCEDA's strategic economic mission of people and business attraction and retention. This grant will serve as an important piece to ensure that the needs of rural Thayer County will be met for years to come.

TCEDA enthusiastically encourages the Public Service Commission's approval for a Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program grant to better serve rural Thayer County residents as we continue to work together to drive growth now and into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carley Bruning".

Carley Bruning
Executive Director