

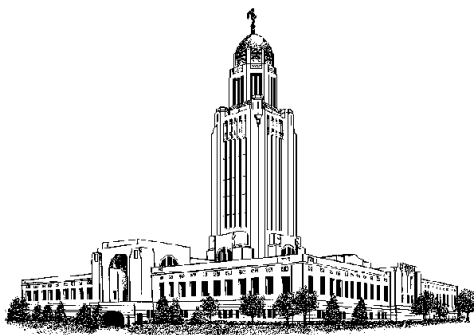
Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc.
Thayer County Project
Attachment M_2-Letters of Support

Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc. has signed letters of support from members 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

Vice Chairperson - Agriculture
General Affairs
Judiciary
Building Maintenance

Nebraska Public Service Commission
1200 N Street, Suite 300
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

RE: Broadband Bridge Program

June 1, 2022


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 85 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,


Senator Tom Brandt

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

Dave Bruning

6161 Road Y

Bruning, NE 68322

Marlin Bauhard

440 N 5th Street

Hebron, NE 68370

Dean Krueger

7119 Road H

Hebron, NE 68370

June 7, 2022

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.

Sincerely,

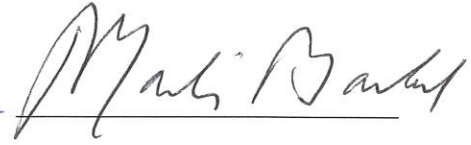
Thayer County Commissioners

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Bruning'.

Dave Bruning, Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Dean Krueger'.

Dean Krueger

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marlin Bauhard'.

Marlin Bauhard



June 8, 2022

RE: Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program, Round 2

To Whom it May Concern:

The Southeast Nebraska Development District (SEND D) is pleased to extend its support to Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc.'s Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program application in Thayer County.

SEND D believes communities should be involved in the broadband expansion process. This application is a shining example of how local stakeholders can play an active role in supporting private projects and grant applications. Since late March, SEND D has held discussions with stakeholders in Thayer County to form a countywide Broadband Action Team (BAT). 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. Upon the BAT's recommendation, the Thayer County Commission approved a \$500,000 contribution from county ARPA funds to support Glenwood's application, making this a true public-private partnership.

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 data, only 14 percent of the county is served by wireline broadband capable of 100/20 Mbps. This project will measurably increase that number by connecting 78 homes over 51 miles of fiber. Furthermore, the design of this project places six of the county's underserved communities next-in-line for fiber buildout. 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 willingness to engage the Thayer BAT and develop this public-private partnership sets a valuable precedent for continued efforts to connect rural Nebraskans to reliable, high-speed broadband. SEND D backs this project proposal with enthusiasm and urges the Public Service Commission to approve this application.

Sincerely,

Tom Bliss

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Bliss", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Executive Director

LINCOLN OFFICE
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 is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

June 21, 2022

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 78 rural homes to fiber and designing another phase of build-out in six 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 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.

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

Bruning-Davenport Unified School

District #85-2001

Kolin Haecker, Superintendent

Elem. & Middle School / District Office
106 N. Juniper Avenue
PO Box 190
Davenport, NE 68335
(402) 364-2225



Damen Kugel, Principal

Elem. & High School
340 Carroll Street
PO Box 70
Bruning, NE 68322
(402) 353-4685

June 20, 2022

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

RE: Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program (NBBP)

To Whom it May Concern

This letter is regarding a grant application for Glenwood Telecommunications, Inc. in conjunction with Thayer County. The approval of this grant would have a direct positive impact on the Bruning-Davenport Unified School District and our students.

Access to 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.

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 our families the equal playing field that they deserve in today's world.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kolin Haecker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "K".

Kolin Haecker, Supt.
Bruning-Davenport Unified School District

Bruning-Davenport Unified School

District #85-2001

Kolin Haecker, Superintendent

Elem. & Middle School / District Office
106 N. Juniper Avenue
PO Box 190
Davenport NE 68335
(402) 364-2225



Damen Kugel, Principal

Elem. & High School
340 Carroll Street
PO Box 70
Bruning NE 68322
(402) 353-4685

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 Thayer 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 Thayer 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 complete, but we also hope to see more families choose Thayer Co. to relocate to.

This grant serves as an important piece to ensure that the needs of rural Thayer 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 Thayer County residents.

Respectfully,

Damen Kugel
PK-12 Principal
Bruning-Davenport USD

Thayer County Health Services

Exceptional Health... Close to Home

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 Thayer County Health Services' support for the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Grant. Living in rural Thayer 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 many 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 Thayer County Health Services and the growth of Thayer County will be met for years to come.

Sincerely,



Brian Rokusek
Chief Executive Officer
Thayer County Health Services



Citizens State Bank

P.O. Box 135 • 209 3rd Street • Carleton, NE 68326 • (402) 356-2601 • Fax (402) 356-2501

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

RE: Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program (NBBP)

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.

Currently we feel there is a lack of infrastructure and availability of reliable high-speed internet capabilities in rural Thayer County. A fiber network would afford both the residents and businesses of rural Thayer 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 Thayer County with the support of the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program. Your consideration of this project would enhance the internet within our area by providing residents with reliable and sufficient broadband.

Sincerely,



Michael Van Cleef

President/CEO

Citizens State Bank



06/08/2022

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

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in support of the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program funding, which is being applied for by Glenwood Telecommunications.

As a small manufacturing business in rural Nebraska, our operations at MetalQuest rely heavily on reliable internet, and as a result, the technologies and processes within our building would cease to function without reliable internet. Of course, our company is not alone in this. Now more than ever, reliable internet access is crucial for the day to day operations of schools, businesses, and communities as a whole. Rural communities such as Thayer County have an especially critical need for internet access. Members of the community rely on the internet to conduct business, communicate, and gain access to knowledge and services that would otherwise be unobtainable in many cases. Our community would benefit significantly from economic incentives budgeted toward expanding broadband access to rural Thayer County.

When it comes to the area of education, many students within Thayer County have been faced with the obstacle of struggling to keep up with their course work due to poor internet access. Such an obstacle does a disservice to these students and is something that needs corrected. In general, a lack of adequate broadband connectivity is preventing the widespread use of internet for all members of education in our rural area. The internet is both a beneficial and necessary tool for students and staff.

In writing to you, my hope is that you will consider funding a fiber project in Thayer County, which is being applied for by Glenwood Telecommunications. The ability to work and learn online with ease is critical for the long term success of students and teachers within Thayer County, and every one of these individuals deserves an equal opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Scott Harms'.

Scott Harms | President
MetalQuest Unlimited, Inc.

scott@metalquest.net | P: 402.768.3811

www.metalquest.net



RE: Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program

Dear NPSC Commissioners,

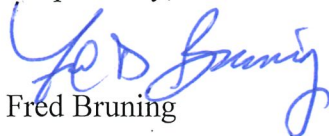
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With the deployment of broadband more densely in our area we will improve the appeal for not only businesses seeking to complete, but we also hope to see more families choose Thayer Co. to relocate to.

This grant serves as an important piece to ensure that the needs of rural Thayer 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 Thayer County residents.

Respectfully,



Fred Bruning

CEO

Chairman of the Board

BUILD. GROW. THRIVE.

bruningbank.com



RE: Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program

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Respectfully,

Zach Messman

Vice President/Loan officer

Chairman of the Bruning Village Board

BUILD. GROW. THRIVE.

bruningbank.com



RE: Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program

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Respectfully,



Adam Bruning

Loan officer

Bruning Bancshares Inc., Board of Directors

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bruningbank.com

B
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BRUNING FARMS

6062 ROAD Y • BRUNING, NE 68322

OFFICE: 402-353-4455 REISS: 402-768-3332 FRED: 402-768-8181

WWW.BRUNINGFARMS.COM

RE: Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program

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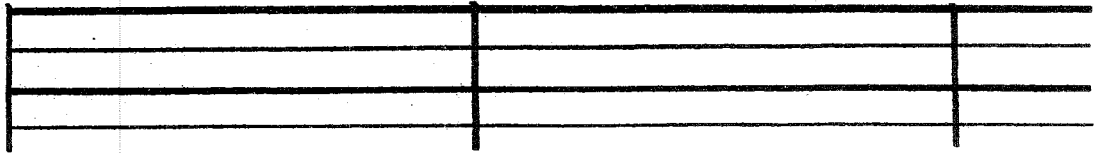
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Respectfully,

Fred & Donni Bruning
Bruning Farms LLC

**FEEDLOT
FENCING
LLC**



**Feedlot Fencing LLC
6062 Road Y
Bruning, NE 68322
402-353-4455
Fax 402-353-4885**

RE: Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program

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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 Thayer County.

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Respectfully,

*Danni J. Bruning
Owner / President
Feedlot Fencing LLC*