

**CEDAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
P.O. BOX 47 – 101 SOUTH BROADWAY – COURTHOUSE  
HARTINGTON, NE 68739**

**DISTRICT 1  
Richard Donner  
402-640-2093**

**DISTRICT 2  
Craig Bartels  
402-640-2092**

**DISTRICT 3  
David McGregor  
402-640-2094**

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**Nebraska Public Service Commission  
1200 N Street, 300 The Atrium  
Lincoln, NE 68508**

Dear Nebraska Public Service Commission,

After meeting with Tom Noecker on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, we are very hopeful for the rural areas of St. Helena and Fordyce will be getting access to Hartelco's fiber optic line. These rural areas are very remote and high-speed internet is not an option for these residents of Cedar County.

Since COVID-19 Pandemic, we have noticed our work from home careers in our county has increased. Along with telehealth practices, smart agriculture resourcing and online schooling. Bringing more fiber to these rural communities would help our current residents communicate better and hopefully attract new residents to the area.

Sincerely,  
Cedar County Commissioners

*Richard Donner*

Dick Donner

*Craig Bartels*

Craig Bartels

*David J. McGregor*

Dave McGregor

*Marty O'Connor*  
*Knox County District #1 Supervisor*

*54991 897<sup>th</sup> Road  
Crofton, Nebraska  
68730*

*Phone 402-388-4252/Cell 605-61-7913*

*Fax 605-664-6067*

*KnoxDistrictOne@hotmail.com*

October 2nd, 2023

My name is Marty O'Connor. For the last 20+ years, I have been the Knox County Nebraska, District #1 Supervisor, which includes Crofton, the Lewis and Clark Lake area, and West up to Kohles Acres.

This letter is to advise of a serious need for high speed internet within the area.

I was contacted by the CEO of Hartelco, Tom Noecker, about the possibility of furthering the internet capabilities within my district.

In this district, there are many subdivisions and more to come. In fact, a 40 house subdivision was just approved last month which will be located within this same district.

We have over 1000 campsites in this district.

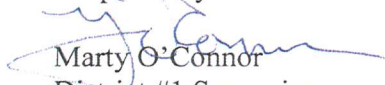
While working from home has been on the rise, the need for stable, affordable internet is of great importance for this district. Many high school and college students take courses online as they deal with Covid restrictions, which appear to be coming back. For instance, every Crofton Student are issued iPads for school work and the submission of the school work is sent via internet from their home residences.

Another widely known issue, is the influx of weekend campers and travelers to the Lewis and Clark Lake. We at Knox County just completed a study on this past 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, which there were up to 3,400 additional people in the area per day. Internet usage gets "soaked up" quickly. Workable internet speeds are minimal, and streaming or apps such as Microsoft Teams, WebEx and Zoom cannot work.

I have personally known Mr. Noecker for over 20 years. He's a business man which people respect.

I am speaking on my own behalf, as a resident of this district, and as a County Supervisor who hears from constituents continually about the need to better the internet in this area.

Respectfully Submitted

  
Marty O'Connor  
District #1 Supervisor  
Knox County, Nebraska

VILLAGE OF  
*Fordyce*

PO BOX 104  
FORDYCE, NE 68736  
402-357-3550

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Nebraska Public Service Commission

1200 N Street

300 The Atrium

Lincoln, NE 68508

October 1, 2023

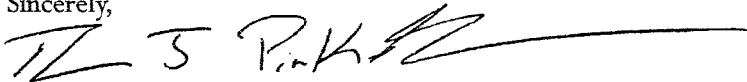
To whom it may concern at the Nebraska Public Service Commission:

The Village of Fordyce, Nebraska held two meetings in the last year where Hartelco attended. These dates were September 26, 2022 and February 20, 2023. The telecommunications provider and the village councilmen visited not only about the city limits area needing internet speed but also our rural areas surrounding our city limits needing access to high speed internet as well. This rural area is extremely under served as well and would also benefit immensely from high speed internet services.

Because the rural areas around Fordyce are so remote, we have a lot of residents that need to work from home. In today's world, it is required to have faster internet speeds to provide uninterrupted work from home environments. Not only working from home situations, but also education from home, smart agriculture farming services and probably most important would have to be the option to have tele-health services. These rural areas are far from a lot of specialty hospitals and tele-health visits are required.

Please let us know if there is anything else you need in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Pinkelman", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Tom Pinkelman, Village of Fordyce Chairperson

FROM THE VILLAGE OFFICE OF  
*St. Helena, Nebraska*

PO BOX 41  
ST. HELENA, NE  
68774

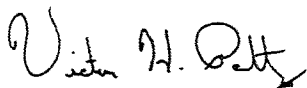
9/28/23

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

Dear Nebraska Public Service Commission,

The Village of St. Helena, Nebraska asked Hartelco to be at two of our town hall meetings to discuss the option of applying for grants to bring fiber optic internet to our small town. Their CEO, Tom Noecker and General Manager, Lois Lammers attended both of these meetings. The dates of these town hall meetings were September 12th, 2022 and also again on February 15th 2023. It was discussed bringing fiber optic internet services into the St. Helena city limits and also hopefully to the rural outside areas of St. Helena, Nebraska with a possible next grant. It was noted that not only do our village residents within city limits need reliable internet, but also the rural surrounding area of St. Helena is in desperate need. Therefore, we have more people working from home, as well as telehealth and online schooling becoming an every day assurance. Bringing fiber to the rural area is just as equally needed. If you have any questions about the meetings mentioned above, please reach out to me.

Sincerely,



Victor H. Paltz, Chairman, Village of St. Helena, Nebraska