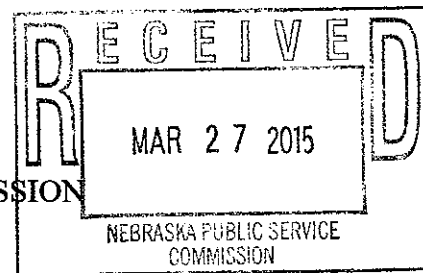


BEFORE THE
NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service)
Commission, on its own motion, seeking to)
administer the Nebraska Universal Service)
Fund's Broadband Program: Application)
to the Nebraska Broadband Program)
Received from NebraskaLink Holdings, LLC)

Application No. NUSF-92.31

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF CHRIS BEUTLER IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION

Q. Please state your name.

A. My name is Chris Beutler.

Q. Please state your position with and the name of your current employer and provide a summary of your duties.

A. I have been the Mayor of the City of Lincoln, Nebraska since 2007. As Mayor, I am the chief executive officer and administrative head of City government. As such, I am involved in the day-to-day affairs of Lincoln which has a population of approximately 275,000 residents.

Q. Please describe the Applicant and its business.

NebraskaLink is a consortium of independent Nebraska telephone companies which has deployed a high-speed fiber network within the City of Lincoln. NebraskaLink promotes broadband adoption within our city to both the public and private sectors by utilizing its fiber network to offer competitive pricing, diversified routing, and reliable connectivity to local governments, educational institutions, wholesale carriers, Internet service providers and business customers. NebraskaLink's proposed project with the Lincoln City Libraries will enable the library system to lower its annual broadband fees while enormously improving its bandwidth and the

Internet speed that will be available to all of Lincoln's library patrons.

Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A. My testimony is provided to support NebraskaLink's application to the Commission seeking funding under the Nebraska Universal Service Fund Broadband Adoption Program for a cooperative project with the Lincoln City Libraries to improve its Internet-based services through fiber connections at each of the Libraries' branches.

Q. Can you describe the Application?

A. Yes. NebraskaLink, in partnership with the Lincoln City Libraries, will construct a dark fiber network connecting all eight Lincoln City Libraries locations. The proposed fiber network will dramatically increase and capacity of the library infrastructure, significantly expanding the Libraries' ability to provide high quality, high speed Internet access to all of our library patrons. Because it will connect the Lincoln City Libraries to Network Nebraska, a collaborative, multipurpose telecommunications backbone network utilized by the Lincoln Public Schools, we anticipate that school children will be able to access school resources at library locations across the City. We think that this access will only increase in importance as educational activities become increasingly based on access to the Internet.

Q. Are there additional details and supporting information in the Application?

A. Yes. The Application contains a detailed description of the project. The City of Lincoln is particularly appreciative of the amount of capital that NebraskaLink is bringing to this project. The City of Lincoln recognizes that strong connectivity is a key to our competitiveness on both a national and global basis. At a time of tight budgets, we have been unable to move forward as aggressively as a city as we would like. However, the city-wide fiber network contained in this proposal that is targeted

most particularly at those most often left on the wrong side of the digital divide, the young and the lower income, will be a huge step forward for the City of Lincoln.

We also believe that it will demonstrate to communities across Nebraska what can be accomplished by well thought out investments in broadband infrastructure.

Q. Do you support the Staff recommendation regarding the Application?

A. Yes. I enthusiastically support the Staff's recommendation to approve this Application and ask the Commission to adopt the Staff's recommendation regarding the Application.

Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

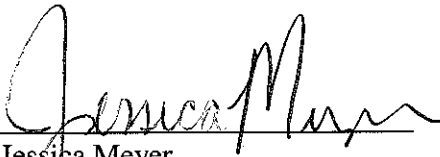
A. Yes.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on this 27th day of March, 2015, the original, five copies and an electronic copy of the foregoing pleading was delivered to:

Nebraska Public Service Commission
Shana Knutson
1200 N Street, Suite 300
Lincoln, NE 68508
Shana.Knutson@nebraska.gov

Windstream Communications
Russell Westerhold
Fraser Stryker PC LLO
500 Energy Plaza
409 South 17th Street
Omaha, NE 68102-2663
rwesterhold@fraserstryker.com



Jessica Meyer