

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public)
Service Commission, on its Own Motion)
to Administer the Nebraska Universal)
Service Fund Broadband Program:)
Application to the Nebraska Broadband)
Program Received from United States)
Cellular Corporation.)

Application No. NUSF-92. _____

**PETITION OF UNITED STATES CELLULAR CORPORATION REQUESTING
SUPPORT FROM THE NEBRASKA UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND
BROADBAND PROGRAM**

United States Cellular Corporation (hereinafter referred to as “USCC or U.S. Cellular”) by and through its counsel hereby submits this Petition to the Nebraska Public Service Commission (“Commission”) to receive support from the Nebraska Broadband Program (“NEBP”). This Petition is being submitted pursuant to the Order entered in NUSF-92, Progression Order No. 7 on September 11, 2018 (“the September Order”).

USCC respectfully files this Petition requesting support to construct eight (8) towers that will bring wireless broadband to areas in rural Nebraska that are presently unserved or underserved. These tower locations are identified on a map attached hereto as *Exhibit 1*. The approximate longitude and latitude coordinates for the towers are confidential and are attached hereto as *Confidential Exhibit 2*. In support of its Petition, USCC submits the following:

1. APPLICANT

The companies associated with this Petition are United States Cellular Corporation, d/b/a U.S. Cellular and its FCC licensed operation entities USCOC Nebraska/Kansas LLC and

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USCOC of Greater Iowa Inc. which will provide the broadband service to consumers proposed by this Petition. The point of contact for this Petition is:

Stephanie Cassioppi
United States Cellular Corporation
8410 W. Bryn Mawr
Chicago, IL 60631-3486
(773)399-7940
stephanie.cassioppi@USCellular.com

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECTS

USCC's Petition consists of bringing broadband service to eight (8) towers, as shown on the map in *Exhibit 1*. The company's preferences for funding the locations are ranked in the following order, from first to last: Gresham, Palmer, Butte, Niobrara, Oshkosh, Lawrence, Roseland and Keystone. Each project is separate and can be funded at the Commission's discretion. U.S. Cellular commits to meeting or exceeding broadband speeds required by the program at each location.

3. "UNSERVED" AND "UNDERSERVED" ANALYSIS

U.S. Cellular identified "served" areas by researching publicly available network coverage maps. As a result of its review, USCC believes all the projects herein are located in underserved and/or unserved areas.

4. LIST OF CENSUS BLOCKS IN EXCEL FORMAT

Confidential Exhibit 3 indicates the census blocks showing households where broadband coverage will be increased via the above-named towers. Due to its extreme length, this exhibit is only being submitted electronically.

5. BUDGET

The proposed budget is included as a part of the aforementioned *Confidential Exhibit 2*.

6. RETAIL PRICING

Up-to-date retail pricing for U.S. Cellular can be found on U.S. Cellular's website at <http://www.uscellular.com>. Customers have the option to purchase a wireless modem for use on laptops, but a modem is not required to receive broadband service on wireless phones or tablets. USCC does not charge a subscriber line charge.

7. FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL COMPETENCE

Originally formed as TDS Cellular Communications Company in 1983, the company changed its name to United States Cellular Corporation on January 26, 1984. The company is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois and reaches a 26-state footprint. U.S. Cellular employs roughly 133 associates, 71 agent associates and operates 154 retail locations in Nebraska through corporately-owned stores, authorized-agent locations and national retail chains. USCC's is led by a talented and experienced leadership team consisting of the following:

- Kenneth R. Meyers, President and Chief Executive Officer
- Steven T. Campbell, Chief Financial Officer
- Jay Ellison, Chief Operating Officer
- Michael S. Irizarry, Ph.D., Chief Technology Officer
- John C. Gockley, Vice President, Legal and Regulatory Affairs

U.S. Cellular has offered wireless service in Nebraska since 2003, and now has 384 towers in the state. U.S. Cellular has been certified as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in Nebraska since 2007. U.S. Cellular uses a state-of-the art mobile switching center in Omaha which has a full power back-up system for redundancy. Field teams are based in Nebraska enabling quick dispatch of personnel if on-site repair is required.

8. FINANCIAL MATCH

All of the proposed towers are located in sparsely populated rural areas that are uneconomical to serve and there is not a business case supporting the investment. As a result, U.S. Cellular will not contribute a financial match to fund the projects.

9. TRUTH AND ACCURACY AFFIDAVIT

An Affidavit attesting to the accuracy of the information herein is attached as *Exhibit 4*.

10. FURTHER SATISFACTION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In further support of its Petition U.S. Cellular states:

- a. USCC offers a voice grade service to customers and commits to continue to do so;
- b. USCC offers access to emergency services throughout its service area and commits to continue to do so;
- c. USCC commits to offering broadband service to all households within the coverage area for at least five (5) years;
- d. USCC commits to provide broadband mapping data to the Commission and its vendors as requested;
- e. USCC commits to use support from the NEBP only for the purposes intended and which have been approved by the Commission;
- f. USCC commits to fulfill all reporting and audit requirements by the Commission related to the NEBP program; and
- g. USCC commits to abide by all applicable Commission Rules, Regulations and Orders, including requirements established in NUSF-92, as well as in in prior Dedicated Wireless Fund Orders pertaining to infrastructure sharing, roaming, Phase II 911 capability and reporting requirements.

Conclusion

Constructing towers at the proposed locations will improve public safety and economic viability in rural areas where broadband wireless service is presently inadequate.

USCC's Petition meets the criteria and objectives of the NEBP, and furthers the goal of

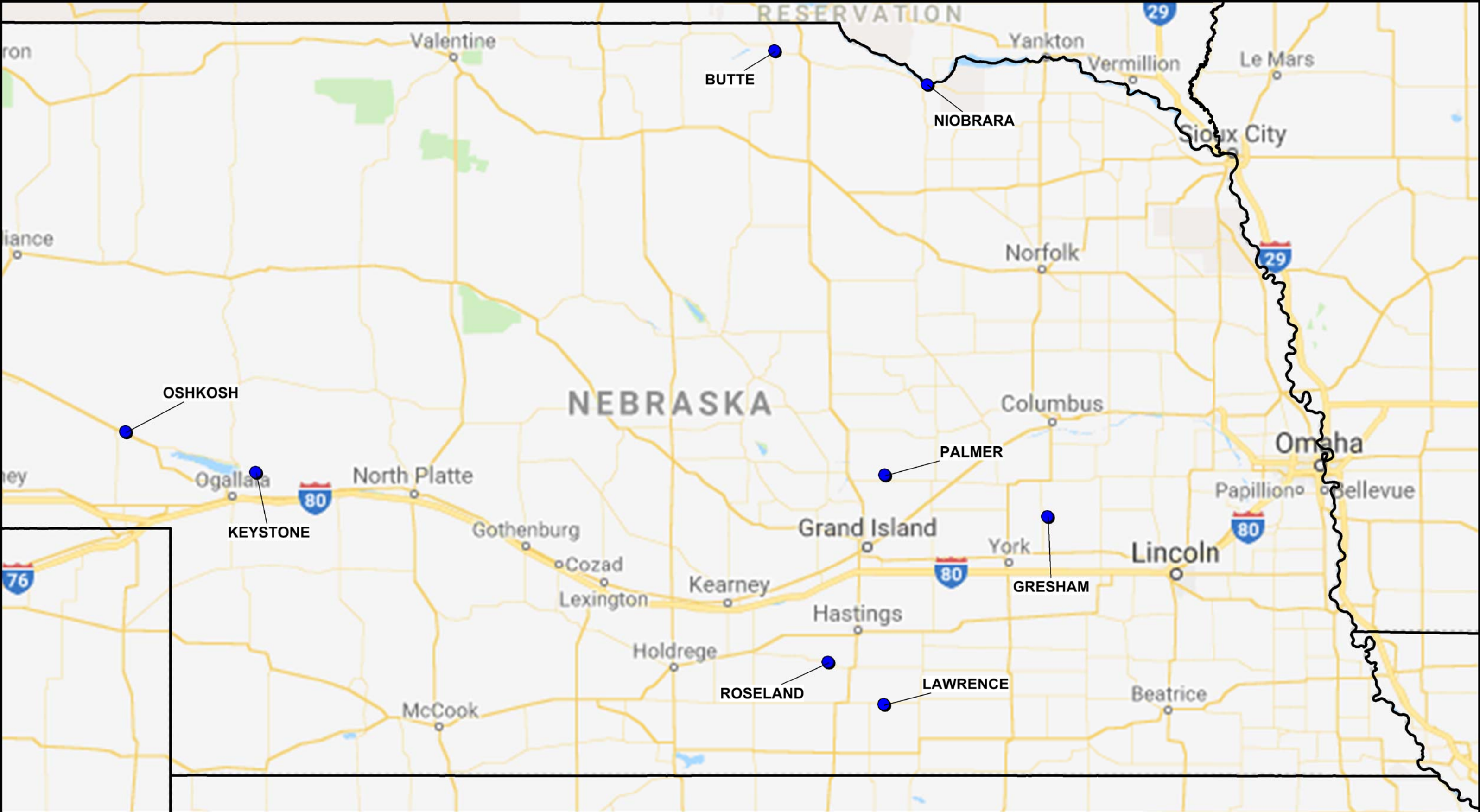
making broadband service available statewide. USCC respectfully requests the Commission enter an Order approving it to receive support for the projects described in this Petition.

Respectfully submitted this 1st day of November, 2018.

United States Cellular Corporation

By: 
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U.S. Cellular Nebraska Universal Fund Grant application sites



AFFIDAVIT OF UNITED STATES CELLULAR CORPORATION

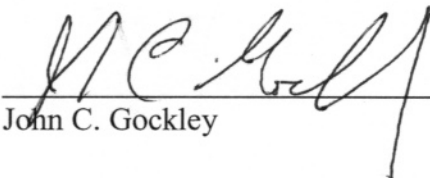
Nebraska Broadband Program

NUSF-92

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) ss.
COUNTY OF COOK)

I, the undersigned, being duly sworn, state as follows:

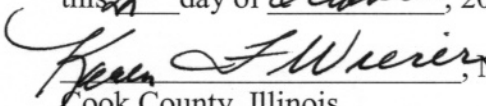
1. I am the Vice President, Legal and Regulatory Affairs, of United States Cellular Corporation, FCC service area number 379019.
2. I have read the foregoing Application seeking funding from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund Broadband Program and state the information provided herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.



John C. Gockley

Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 28 day of October, 2018.


_____, Notary Public
Cook County, Illinois



My Commission Expires 01/04/21