



CITY OF PERU

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September 20, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

As mayor and a community member in the City of Peru, I am aware of the current efforts to establish a partnership with Pinpoint Communications, Inc., in seeking funds to help build and maintain a fiber optic network and bring much-needed technology upgrades to our community. For example, several of our residents were able to work from home using Zoom, but that can be hampered by a slow internet connection.

I understand the positive impact that high speed capabilities have had in similar communities in Nebraska. The ability to market merchandise over the internet can reverse the trend for small local shops to shut down.

Currently, I feel if we can improve our infrastructure with advanced, high speed internet capabilities our citizens will find a way to improve their livelihoods. Other future benefits would only be limited by their imaginations and resourcefulness.

I support and encourage this partnership and ask that you please consider approving the application grant funding.

Sincerely,



David Pease,
Mayor, City of Peru



September 20, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

The Northeast Nemaha County Long-Term Recovery Group (LTRG) was formed in response to the 2019 floods that severely impacted the infrastructure in Peru, Nebraska and the surrounding area. The mission is to improve the community and assist with recovery and resiliency. As part of this mission, the LTRG has identified specific area needs – including the need for reliable internet to assist current community members and attract businesses.

The LTRG has had open dialogue with Pinpoint Communications, Inc. and are aware they are seeking funds to help build and maintain a fiber optic network and bring much-needed technology and service upgrades to our community. This partnership is a high priority for the City and the LTRG as access to quality internet service has become a necessity rather than a privilege.

We have seen the positive impact that high speed capabilities have had in similar communities in Nebraska as well as how the opportunity costs of not having this access, stresses and limits communities and residents' ability to function, compete, thrive and grow. There is a lack of infrastructure and availability for advanced, high speed internet capabilities in our area. A fiber network would afford both the residents and businesses of the City of Peru the opportunities to work and learn from home as well as grow the local economy.

The LTRG supports, encourages, and advocates for this partnership and asks that you please approve the application for grant funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Solie".

Deborah Solie
Disaster Recovery Coordinator
Northeast Nemaha County Long Term Recovery Group

Nemaha County Board of Commissioners
1824 N Street
#201
Auburn, NE 68305

Dear Nemaha County Board of Commissioners,

I am the new President of Peru State College, and I am honored to have the opportunity to serve the students of this region. My wife, Joanna, and I are enjoying our explorations around Nemaha County and Southeast Nebraska as we learn about everything this area has to offer.

I am writing on behalf of the College to offer our enthusiastic support for bringing improved broadband service to the County. As I am sure you know, broadband these days is a lifeline for families and businesses. For students in particular, it means the ability to conduct research, access databases, communicate with information sources, and collaborate with counterparts around the globe. Throughout the pandemic, students have needed to continue their studies from home at times, and those with minimal or no broadband access were at a significant disadvantage. Even in the absence of such extreme circumstances, so much information has moved to cloud-based servers that reliable, fast internet access is not a luxury—it is essential for students to keep up with their classes.

Families find similar situations. A vast number of forms have moved online, including the FAFSA that college students must complete each year. Paper options exist, but they are decreasing in number, and the online options are increasingly given priority in terms of processing speed. Similarly, an increasing number of instruction manuals, warranties, guidebooks, and other materials are being moved to electronic formats, meaning families that find it difficult to access those documents are left with an information vacuum.

For those same reasons, businesses are finding that they simply cannot function without fast, strong, and reliable broadband. Cities and counties that cannot offer that access will have a very difficult time attracting businesses and replacing the businesses that leave. Incentives to lure businesses despite the lack of reliable broadband would have to be highly persuasive—and hence highly expensive.

I would like to encourage the Board of Commissioners to do all it can to bring improved broadband to Nemaha County, and I hope you will let me know if Peru State College can be helpful in that effort. I strongly believe that everyone in the County will benefit if we can make this happen.

Respectfully,

Michael Evans
President