



July 11, 2023

RE: Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program, Round 3, Nextlink (Adams) Application

To Whom it May Concern:

The Southeast Nebraska Development District (SEND D) is pleased to extend its support to Nextlink's Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program, Round 3 application to deploy fiber optic broadband in rural areas of Gage County surrounding Adams.

Nextlink's Adams application aligns with SEND D's continued commitment to ensuring the District's member communities and counties are involved in the broadband expansion process. The Gage County Board of Supervisors and the Village of Adams have continued to assess their connectivity needs and have identified the area listed in this application as requiring additional investment to expand broadband access. Through the company's continued engagement with the County, Nextlink has designed this project to be receptive to the connectivity needs of residents and businesses in rural Adams. Moreover, their partnership with the County ensures Nextlink will be extraordinarily well-positioned to deploy fiber in a cost- and time-effective manner upon award of this grant. The company's participation in and promotion of the Affordable Connectivity Program also ensures the constructed network will be accessible to residents of all income levels.

Rural Adams, like much of SEND D's membership area, lacks access to wireline broadband infrastructure that delivers the speed and reliability residents need to work from home, learn online, receive quality telehealthcare, and apply advanced precision agriculture technologies. User-generated speed tests submitted through the SEND D & NROC Nebraska Broadband Speed Test initiative indicate experienced speeds in the project area are far below both 25/3 and 100/20 standards of service. Analysis of the most current FCC BDC coverage filings paints a striking picture of how this area has "fallen through the cracks" of other funding programs and remains unserved by wireline broadband infrastructure. SEND D strongly supports this project and urges the Public Service Commission to approve this application.

Sincerely,

Tom Bliss

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Bliss", is positioned above the title "Executive Director".

Executive Director

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July 11, 2023

RE: Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program, Round 3, Nextlink (Wymore) Application

To Whom it May Concern:

The Southeast Nebraska Development District (SEND D D) is pleased to extend its support to Nextlink's Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program, Round 3 application to deploy fiber optic broadband in rural areas of Gage County south of Wymore.

Nextlink's Wymore application aligns with SEND D D's continued commitment to ensuring the District's member communities and counties are involved in the broadband expansion process. Through the company's continued engagement with Gage County, Nextlink has designed this project to be receptive to the connectivity needs of residents and businesses in southern Gage County, as well as the expressed desire of many of the project area's residents for improved broadband service. Moreover, their partnership with the County ensures Nextlink will be extraordinarily well-positioned to deploy fiber in a cost- and time-effective manner upon award of this grant. The company's participation in and promotion of the Affordable Connectivity Program also ensures the constructed network will be accessible to residents of all income levels.

Rural Wymore, like much of SEND D D's membership area, lacks access to wireline broadband infrastructure that delivers the speed and reliability residents need to work from home, learn online, receive quality telehealthcare, and apply advanced precision agriculture technologies. Analysis of the most current FCC BDC coverage reports as well as open-source Ookla results compellingly illustrate how private investment alone has not been sufficient to connect the project area. Fiber connectivity deployed with the support of the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program would make an immediate difference in rural Wymore by improving resident quality of life and advancing the community's progress toward its economic development goals. SEND D D strongly supports this project and urges the Public Service Commission to approve this application.

Sincerely,

Tom Bliss

Executive Director

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July 11, 2023

RE: Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program, Round 3, Nextlink (Cortland) Application

To Whom it May Concern:

The Southeast Nebraska Development District (SEND D D) is pleased to extend its support to Nextlink's Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program, Round 3 application to deploy fiber optic broadband in rural areas west of Cortland.

Nextlink's Cortland application exemplifies SEND D D's continued commitment to ensuring the District's member communities and counties are involved in the broadband expansion process. The Gage County Board of Supervisors and the Village of Cortland have identified a need for additional broadband investment in the proposed project area, particularly to attract and support new residents. Nextlink has designed this project and others to be receptive to the connectivity needs of residents and businesses in Cortland. Moreover, their partnership with the County ensures Nextlink will be extraordinarily well-positioned to deploy fiber in a cost- and time-effective manner upon award of this grant. The company's participation in and promotion of the Affordable Connectivity Program also ensures the constructed network will be accessible to residents of all income levels.

Rural Cortland, like much of SEND D D's membership area, lacks access to wireline broadband infrastructure that delivers the speed and reliability residents need to work from home, learn online, receive quality telehealthcare, and apply advanced precision agriculture technologies. User-generated speed tests submitted by residents in the project area through the SEND D D & NROC Nebraska Broadband Speed Test initiative indicate experienced speeds are far below the 25/3 standard of service. Analysis of the most current FCC BDC coverage filings paints a striking picture of how this area has "fallen through the cracks" of other funding programs and remains unserved by wireline broadband infrastructure. SEND D D strongly supports this project and urges the Public Service Commission to approve this application.

Sincerely,

Tom Bliss

Executive Director

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