



**Jason Alexander**  
Superintendent

**Dr. Jackie Nielsen**  
Assistant Superintendent

**Beth Cordry- Hookstra**  
Director of Special Education

2/20/2023

Dear Members of the Nebraska Public Service Commission,

As the superintendent of the Beatrice public school district, I am writing to express my strong support for Nextlink's Capital Projects Fund application to provide high-speed, fiber optic broadband service to the underserved village of Pickrell, Nebraska.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, our school district has incorporated many internet-dependent tools into our curricula across all grade levels. We provide Chromebooks for student use and many important services for parents and students to manage their educational experience are exclusively online. Access to quality, high-speed internet at home is very important for our students' educational outcomes. Unfortunately, the current internet options in Pickrell are inadequate, and many students in that community do not have access to the online tools that are critical for their academic success. Sixty Three students currently attending BPS live in Pickrell, and we are keen to ensure they have access to the same quality internet services as their peers in Beatrice.

The proposed Nextlink fiber optic broadband project will provide future-proof, high-speed, and affordable internet access to the residents of Pickrell, including our students. With this service, our students will be able to access educational resources and participate in online learning without interruption or delay. Additionally, high-speed internet will enable our teachers to provide more interactive and engaging online learning experiences, which will improve the overall quality of education for our students in Pickrell and surrounding areas.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to support Nextlink's application for State funds to connect the village of Pickrell to high-speed, fiber optic broadband service. This investment in our students and community will have a positive impact for years to come and will level the playing field for all future BPS students from Pickrell.

Thanks for your consideration,

  
Sincerely,  
Jason Alexander  
Superintendent Beatrice Public Schools



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