
Title **0006** 03/21/2022
by **Becky Scott** in **RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT - BROADBAND ACCELERATION GRANT YR 2 APPLICANTS** id. 23743039
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Original Submission 03/21/2022

Please provide your name: **Becky Scott**

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I am providing response comments related to the following application (choose one): **EpicTouch - Liberal**

I am responding to concerns this project: **Proposes to serve an area that already has service**

Please provide your response to the public comments received in the text box below.

As a company, Epic Touch is grateful for the comments received during the public portion of the grant process as well as the opportunity to respond. The amount of public comments reinforces the importance of quality broadband access in rural Kansas and the need for companies to expand their service areas. While the overwhelming majority of comments for Epic Touch were positive, we did receive one challenge and would like to address that here.

Epic Touch was challenged by United Wireless with claims that United already serves the proposed project area and anchor institutions. However, according to the FCC Form 477 maps (FCC MAP Liberal) and homepage of United Wireless (United Wireless Homepage), this is not accurate. United Wireless does not include Liberal on its list of fiber-served communities, and Form 477 only lists fixed wireless availability in the proposed area with speeds of 10/10. Based on the descriptions within the grant, this does not constitute service to the proposed area. Furthermore, the map attached with the public comment challenge verifies that any potential overlap is limited to a small fraction of the total proposed build by Epic Touch.

Epic Touch believes in holistic community builds that ensure each structure in a neighborhood has access to fiber-to-the-premises internet. This can only be accomplished through the hard work and time that it takes to pass every neighborhood and every home. Epic Touch needs to build a future-proof fiber network in Liberal in order to ensure that homes, families, and businesses can be served by the best possible fiber internet available. To do this effectively, the Epic Touch growth plan includes passing every structure as it builds on its existing fiber network in Liberal.

Please provide supporting documents relative to your comments. Please submit multiple files as a ZIP file.

[EpicTouch_Liberal2022_PROPRIETARY_Public_Comment_Response.pdf](#)

Becky Scott 3/21/2022

By submitting this form for public comment and evidence to support your comment, you are accepting responsibility for the accuracy of the information submitted and that it is true and correct to the best of your knowledge. You agree to be contacted by the Kansas Office of Broadband Development, Kansas Department of Commerce should the need arise. Furthermore, by making this submission, you understand that Kansas Department of Commerce and the Office of Broadband Development reserve the right to publicly publish your comment and evidence provided. Falsification of information will result in rejection of future public comment submissions and could result legal action. Please type your name and today's date in the text box below.
