



Atwood Cable Systems, Inc.  
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09/02/2022

Kansas Department of Commerce  
Office of Broadband Development

**RE: Public Comments for Grant Applications Capital Projects Fund: Concerning Nex-Tech Atwood Town 1.1, Rawlins County, KS and Vyve, Rawlins County, KS applications.**

We are submitting this public comment in opposition to the Nex-Tech Atwood Town 1.1, Rawlins County and Vyve Rawlins County grant applications from the Capital Projects Fund. The granting of funds for this area of their proposals would be a waste of taxpayer dollars. The area of the City of Atwood, KS is already being served with 100/20 internet service by our locally owned company Atwood Cable Systems, Inc ("Atwood Cable Systems" or "ACSI"). We believe it to be unfair for the State of Kansas to fund companies to compete against our company without providing us with the opportunity to receive similar or the same funding. As we understand the funding process, that we are prohibited from applying for this funding because we already offer the 100/20 internet service required. We are attaching other evidence or proof of our companies existing offerings that our company has been selling in the contested area. In addition, our website <http://www.atwoodcable.com/internet.htm> and our FCC filings, 477 data and BDC filings to also show our further evidence of these offerings.

Another point of our objection to funding these companies, Atwood Cable Systems is a small locally owned company with a robust internet offering as indicated in the above cited material. Nex-Tech and Vyve both larger companies, already offer internet services in the contested area. This gives rise to the question of why they have not invested their own money, like Atwood Cable Systems did, to enhance their offerings in the city of Atwood rather than wanting to rely on taxpayer funded subsidies. Nex-tech has already received Government funding to bring fiber through Atwood. Both Nex-Tech and Vyve already have the size and ability to compete in Atwood without taxpayer funding to pose an unfair advantage to the existence of our small town, locally owned company. We believe it is fundamentally unfair to give taxpayer funded subsidies to existing competitors to upgrade their operations to compete against our small locally owned company, especially one which is already providing speeds of 100/20 and with plans for privately funded enhancements. What taxpayer funds would be better served by providing data centers and middle mile connections closer so we small locally owned companies would have more affordable connections/bandwidth to the internet backbone to power our local internet offerings.

Atwood Cable Systems, Inc has been serving the citizens and business of Atwood, KS for over 41 years. First with cable TV service then with internet offering beginning in 2004



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and home and business phone services since 2008. Atwood Cable is a family owned small business since it was started in 1981. We employ 5 families whose livelihoods depend on our business success. These are local residents and their families, who own homes, belong to local organizations, have children in our local schools, serve on local boards and contribute to the local tax base. Our employees support local business, churches and healthcare services. Nex-Tech and Vyve will not provide anywhere near the same level of local support for Atwood, rather they will use taxpayer subsidies to gain a competitive advantage over our small locally owned company, threatening our very existence. Competing against larger companies is difficult enough without those companies being subsidized by taxpayer money to gain an unfair advantage, therefore they will only be extracting money from our local economy. It is well known in our "local" industry that Nex-Tech and Vyve are bitter enemies and taxpayer money should not be used to fund their war.

Atwood Cable prides itself on our fast and friendly customer service. We can usually take care of problems within a few hours or less, or possibly within minutes. We upgrade our offerings as needed and we are also in the planning stages to further upgrade our broadband offerings. We are not afraid of competition. In Atwood, there are 16 different ways to get internet services; they are listed in one of our attachments. We just want our competition to be on an even playing field and not have to compete against taxpayer funded entities. We also believe that if Government is going to fund these networks, all local providers should have access to these networks to compete and offer services to the customers/taxpayers they reach. There is precedence for this, as in the wireline telephone business. Government of any sort should not be picking winners and losers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert J Dunker", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert J Dunker, President and CEO  
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