

STATE OF KANSAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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JOHN R. EPLEE, MD  
63RD DISTRICT

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to show my strong support for the partnership Doniphan County has formed with the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska and Rainbow Communications for their grant application of the Kansas Department of Commerce Office of Broadband Development Capital Project Fund: Broadband Infrastructure Program. I am writing this letter to support Doniphan County's rebuttal of the challenge made by AMG/NextLink to Doniphan County's broadband grant application.

Located in the northeastern most corner of the state of Kansas, Doniphan has the opportunity to grow in population as a bedroom county for rural remote workers with nearby St. Joseph, MO and the KCI airport and metropolitan area. However, they have unique terrain unlike most of Kansas. Building broadband infrastructure is more difficult and costly to build here than in the flatter regions of the state. From years of representing the area, I have witnessed that wireless internet does not work well for the varied topography and the proposed fixed wireless technology will not work efficiently either. Fiber broadband built into the ground (fiber to the premise/home) is the only technology that can provide the adequate speeds to serve their population now and is future proof technology for growing generations.

Rainbow Communications, the local area telecom company in northeast Kansas, has proven over decades of experience, that they not only care about and understand the counties and cities they serve, including Doniphan County, but they also have the skill set and willingness to build fiber broadband technology that lasts. They empathize with the problems Doniphan County residents face who have poor or no internet access.

I ask you to respectfully and thoughtfully consider Doniphan County's application and rebuttal comments.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John R. Eplee', written over a horizontal line.

John R. Eplee, M.D. Kansas Representative District #63