



To: State of Kansas – Office of Broadband

From: Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska

Re: Support for Doniphan County Broadband Grant Proposal

The Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska formally supports the grant application submitted by Doniphan County, Kansas, to expand wired broadband service in our rural community. The Tribe has a long and successful partnership with Doniphan County and is confident that the solution proposed by Doniphan County best meets the needs of our Tribal members living in this community.

The public commit submitted by AMG/NextLink to the Doniphan County grant application does not take into consideration the facts that wireless solutions have been tried in these areas before with poor results. The public in these areas have stated in meetings and surveys that they want fast reliable fiber service. The needs of these areas would be best served by the solution proposed by Doniphan County in the near term and as a future proof solution.

Non-local broadband companies do not understand the challenges of building solutions in our area and do not coordinate their proposals with us. Because much of the terrain in our area is hilly and heavily wooded terrain, it inhibits wireless solutions from working well. Previously awarded grants for wireless solutions in Doniphan County have not been successful in delivering the promised speeds or service. Additionally, wireless technologies would require significant numbers of towers to be effective and we would not permit these to be built on our land due to environmental and cultural impacts.

The Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska supports Doniphan County's grant application to deploy wired fiber technology to our community, local business, and our Tribal members in this area. We feel this is a much superior and proven approach to ensuring digital equity in the area.

We respectfully request that you consider our letter of support for the Doniphan County broadband grant application and request that all proposals for wired or wireless broadband solutions that impact our reservation, or our Tribal members, be coordinated with us. Doniphan County worked with us on their grant application and we feel that it is the best for our community and look forward to seeing it deployed for our members.

Sincerely,

*Timothy N. Rhodd*

Tim Rhodd

Chairman

Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska