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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 Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska and their partnership with Rainbow Communications and Doniphan County 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 the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska's rebuttal of the challenge made by AMG/NextLink to the White Cloud area.

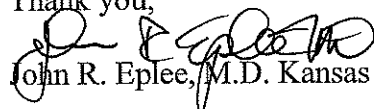
The City of White Cloud, population of approximately 150, is located in the northwestern tip of Doniphan County adjacent to the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska's housing development and land. As such, many tribal members have businesses in White Cloud and live nearby. The historic river town and the buildings are being revitalized, however the area cannot fully capitalize on the tourism or economic opportunity because of non-existent broadband internet.

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 the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska in Doniphan County, but they also have the skill set and willingness to build fiber broadband technology that lasts. They empathize with the problems tribal residents and businesses face who have poor or no internet access.

I ask you to respectfully and thoughtfully consider the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska's application and rebuttal comments.

Thank you,

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