OMAHA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Executive Officers
Leander Merrick, Chairman
Cheyenne Robinson, Vice-Chairwoman
Jazelle Miller, Treasurer
Gwendolyn Porter, Secretary

Members
Carlton Edwards
Primo Hallowell
Alan Harlan

September 28, 2022

Re: NTIA Middle Mile Grant for Federally Recognized areas of the Omaha Tribe - Nebraska and Iowa
To Whom It May Concern:

Please consider this letter and the Tribal Council Resolution #22-114 as both support for the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska's Middle Mile Grant Application GRN-001447 and a tribal self-certification that our Federally Recognized Tribal Areas in Nebraska and Iowa which are the subject to this application are underserved, and in many cases, unserved by quality broadband access.
Specifically, each of the designated Community Anchor Institutions which will be connected are underserved in that high-speed fiber-based broadband is currently unavailable to these locations and non-terrestrial based services do not provide speeds and quality in a manner that satisfies the 100x20 speed requirements. At this time, the Omaha Tribe has not entered into any agreements nor has any pre-existing agreements with broadband service providers to build networks which will deliver at speeds of 100 Mb down and 20 up on a retail basis and at a reasonable cost.
Our support and our Middle Mile grant application is warranted because infrastructure investment in our areas in Nebraska and Iowa is needed to allow for future retail providers to provide quality broadband. Please contact our Tribal Planner, Mike Grant, at mike.grant@theomahatribe.com; 402.837-5391 ext. 308 should you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Leander Merrick
Omaha Tribal Chairman

Tribal Planner
Omaha Tribe of Nebraska
Quick Current Nebraska

September 27, 2022

Quick Current LLC
101 Main Street
Macy, NE, 68039

Subject: Last Mile Service Commitment

To Whom It May Concern

This letter certifies that Quick Current-Nebraska LLC, commits to obtain middle-mile service from Quick Current LLC, for the purpose of providing retail Internet broadband service to native lands and adjacent areas, including tribal members, businesses, and other non-tribal community members who are located in and around the Omaha Reservation Nebraska where we have licensed spectrum.

Our high-speed broadband service will be provided to subscribers via fixed fiber and wireless broadband technology. To provide the last mile service, we recently secured 2.5GHz spectrum from the FCC via Auction 108 and intend to pair that wireless spectrum with your middle-mile network.

Our proposed network will cover over 937 square miles of tribal and near-tribal territory. There are 6,982 households in our target service area with a total population of 17,922. (See the Appendix A below.) Based upon Tribal Designation and upon the Tribe's familiarity in the area, we believe that these households are currently unserved or underserved for broadband service.

This letter certifies that that intended last mile service will be capable of providing fixed fiber service with 1GB speed and/or fixed wireless retail broadband service with 100MB symmetrical speed. (Our intended last mile service descriptions and pricing is provided in Appendix B below.) Where appropriate, we will also attempt to secure Federal subsidies via the USDA ReConnect Program.

Sincerely,

Lowell Feldman
Manager, Quick Current-Nebraska LLC

Appendix A: Last Mile Service Objectives

Quick Current Nebraska intends to offer service to over more than 6,000 households from the rural areas listed below. Our target service areas covered via fixed fiber and/or wireless broadband include the following:

Location	Population	Households	Square Miles
Hoskins, NE	866	340	51.79
Winside, NE	697	289	53.11
Wakefield, NE	1,834	607	53.96
Emerson,NE	1,117	415	50.77
Pender, NE	1,377	564	55.74
Bancroft, NE	725	285	55.12
Macy, NE	1,347	290	55.62
Decatur, NE	556	279	54.74
Lyons, NE	1,049	462	51.63
N West Point, NE	1,631	668	47.59
Oakland, NE	1,623	660	54.02
Craig, NE	421	158	46.71
Wisner, NE	1,547	647	57.11
W Wisner, NE	454	197	53.78
S Wisner, NE	283	122	52.96
Tekamah, NE	2,013	843	49.74
SW Tekamah, NE	245	76	36.84
SE Tekamah, NE	137	80	55.48
Total	17,922	6,982	937

Appendix B: Proposed Last Mile Service Objectives

Quick Current-Nebraska LLC is committed to providing communities in and around our tribal community with industry leading telecommunication services. This includes fixed and wireless broadband service with connection speeds up to 1GB. Our network will be deployed on standards-based technology and equipment.

If Quick Current LLC is awarded its middle mile grant application – it should enable our company to offer the following services on a retail basis:

Fixed Fiber Internet

River 150	Plains 500	Omaha 1,000
Speed 150 Mbps downlink 150 Mbps uplink	*Speed* 500 Mbps downlink 500 Mbps uplink	*Speed* 1000 Mbps downlink 1000 Mbps uplink
$59.95 per month	$79.95 per month	$99.95 per month
HD streaming, virtual learning, downloading files quickly, social networking, operating a few smart home devices and more.	Heavy device usage and moderate 4K streaming, gaming, videoconferencing, virtual learning or working from home, downloading large files quickly	Virtually unlimited devices and seamless 4K streaming on multiple devices, heavy gaming, videoconferencing, multiple people learning virtually or working from home, downloading large files quickly

- Unlimited usage
- Sufficient for streaming video, voice, and gaming
- Reliable, fiber-based network
- Gig speeds available everywhere
- Faster, more reliable speeds than 5G Home Internet
- Affordable internet options may be as low as $0/mo. (where qualified)
- Freedom to change your speed

Appendix B: Proposed Last Mile Service Objectives (continued)

Wireless Broadband

Stream 50	Wireless River 100
Speed 50 Mbps downlink 10 Mbps uplink	*Speed* 100 Mbps downlink 100 Mbps uplink
$59.95 per month	$79.95 per month
Internet access in hard-to-reach locations. Long range and deeply rural locations. Social media, some streaming, virtual learning, operating a few smart home devices	Heavy device usage and HD streaming, gaming, videoconferencing, virtual learning or working from home, downloading large files quickly

- unlimited usage
- Reliable licensed wireless technology
- Affordable internet options may be as low as $0/mo. (where qualified)
- Freedom to change your speed

Tribal Planner
Omaha Tribe of Iowa
Quick Current-Iowa LLC

September 27, 2022

Quick Current LLC
101 Main Street
Macy, NE, 68039

Subject: Last Mile Service Commitment

To Whom It May Concern

This letter certifies that Quick Current-Iowa LLC, commits to obtain middle-mile service from Quick Current LLC, for the purpose of providing retail Internet broadband service to native lands and adjacent areas, including tribal members, businesses, and other non-tribal community members who are located in and around the Omaha Reservation Iowa where we have licensed spectrum.

Our high-speed broadband service will be provided to subscribers via fixed fiber and wireless broadband technology. To provide the last mile service, we recently secured 2.5GHz spectrum from the FCC via Auction 108 and intend to pair that wireless spectrum with your middle-mile network.

Our proposed network will cover over 486 square miles of tribal and near-tribal territory. There are 3,947 households in our target service area with a total population of 10,072. (See the Appendix A below.) Based upon Tribal Designation and upon the Tribe's familiarity in the area, we believe that these households are currently unserved or underserved for broadband service.

This letter certifies that that intended last mile service will be capable of providing fixed fiber service with 1GB speed and/or fixed wireless retail broadband service with 100MB symmetrical speed. (Our intended last mile service descriptions and pricing is provided in Appendix B below.) Where appropriate, we will also attempt to secure Federal subsidies via the USDA ReConnect Program.

Sincerely,

Lowell Feldman
Manager, Quick Current-Iowa LLC

Appendix A: Last Mile Service Objectives

Quick Current Iowa intends to offer service to over more than 6,000 households from the rural areas listed below. Our target service areas covered via fixed fiber and/or wireless broadband include the following:

Salix, IA	993	407	57.15
Sloan IA	-	-	48.97
Albaton, IA	106	43	22.16
Whiting, IA	-	-	53.64
Blackbird, IA	167	89	16.3
Crescent, IA	1,650	625	46.86
Underwood, IA	2,157	809	57.89
Neola, IA	2,028	796	47.25
Minden, IA	193	71	24.13
Persia, IA	693	257	54.65
Logan, IA	2,185	850	56.59
Total	10,172	3,947	485.59

Appendix B: Proposed Last Mile Service Objectives

Quick Current-Iowa LLC is committed to providing communities in and around our tribal community with industry leading telecommunication services. This includes fixed and wireless broadband service with connection speeds up to 1GB. Our network will be deployed on standards-based technology and equipment.

If Quick Current LLC is awarded its middle mile grant application – it should enable our company to offer the following services on a retail basis:

Fixed Fiber Internet

River 150	Plains 500	Omaha 1,000
Speed 150 Mbps downlink 150 Mbps uplink	*Speed* 500 Mbps downlink 500 Mbps uplink	*Speed* 1000 Mbps downlink 1000 Mbps uplink
$59.95 per month	$79.95 per month	$99.95 per month
HD streaming, virtual learning, downloading files quickly, social networking, operating a few smart home devices and more.	Heavy device usage and moderate 4K streaming, gaming, videoconferencing, virtual learning or working from home, downloading large files quickly	Virtually unlimited devices and seamless 4K streaming on multiple devices, heavy gaming, videoconferencing, multiple people learning virtually or working from home, downloading large files quickly

- Unlimited usage
- Sufficient for streaming video, voice, and gaming
- Reliable, fiber-based network
- Gig speeds available everywhere
- Faster, more reliable speeds than 5G Home Internet
- Affordable internet options may be as low as $0/mo. (where qualified)
- Freedom to change your speed

Appendix B: Proposed Last Mile Service Objectives (continued)

Wireless Broadband

Stream 50	Wireless River 100
Speed 50 Mbps downlink 10 Mbps uplink	*Speed* 100 Mbps downlink 100 Mbps uplink
$59.95 per month	$79.95 per month
Internet access in hard-to-reach locations. Long range and deeply rural locations. Social media, some streaming, virtual learning, operating a few smart home devices	Heavy device usage and HD streaming, gaming, videoconferencing, virtual learning or working from home, downloading large files quickly

- Unlimited usage
- Reliable licensed wireless technology
- Affordable internet options may be as low as $0/mo. (where qualified)
- Freedom to change your speed

Connect Nebraska Working Group

1445 K Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, United States
Email: Patrick.redmond@nebraska.gov
Phone: (402) 471-4181

September 26, 2022

Dear National Telecommunications and Information Administration

This letter serves to indicate that the Connect Nebraska Working Group (CNEW) has finished their review of the Middle Mile Grant Application completed by the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska. The entity has sufficiently coordinated and consulted with CNEW, in accordance with the federal guidance. The attached application has met the criteria laid out by the CNEW and is consistent with the State's broadband plan and priorities.

X Patrick Redmond

Patrick Redmond
Nebraska Broadband Infrastructure Coordinator

Gmail

Mike Grant <grant@qcbroadband.com>

Executive Order 12372

1 message

Scrowther, Debra <debra.scrowther@iowa.gov> Mon, Sep 26, 2022 at 12:45 PM
To: "grant@qcbroadband.com" <grant@qcbroadband.com>

Sumir -

Our office serves as the Single Point of Contact for federal grants within the state of Iowa. While subject to E.O. 12372, your application has not been selected for review, therefore, you may choose option “b” when completing form 424.
Reference: Iowa Code 8.9; and Iowa Administrative Rule 541—11.5(2)b.(3).

Best of luck with your application,

Deb Scrowther

Debra Scrowther | Sr. Fiscal & Policy Analyst
Iowa Department of Management • State Capitol Building • Des Moines • Iowa • 50319
[p] 515.281.7076 • [e] debra.scrowther@iowa.gov [w] dom.iowa.gov

GREAT PLAINS COMMUNICATIONS

September 29, 2022

RE: Support for Omaha Tribe's Middle Mile Project – Application Number GRN - 001447

Dear Omaha Tribe of Nebraska,

Great Plains Communications is pleased to submit this letter of support for the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska's application to the Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program. Great Plains Communications is a Midwestern regional provider of fiber-based telecommunications services. We offer a suite of industry-level residential, business, enterprise, and wholesale services, including internet with speeds up to 10Gbps, managed ethernet, connectivity to leading cloud providers, and multiple voice options. We operate a 13,500-mile fiber network that reaches 200 communities in 11 states. With a headquarters located in Blair, Nebraska, Great Plains Communications understands the potential unlocked by having fiber optic facilities available in rural areas. More information about Great Plains Communications is enclosed with this letter and available upon request.

Great Plains Communications has been in discussion with the both Quick Current-Nebraska LLC and Quick Current-Iowa LLC which are owned by the Omaha Tribe to support application number GRN-001447r middle mile broadband infrastructure project. Such discussions include the sale or lease of network services (dark and lit), construction services such as fiber installation and splicing, and consulting services such as network training, in exchange for which Great Plains Communications would be paid for its services and/or receive ownership or other long-term rights to certain excess fiber optic strands in the newly constructed fiber system.

Great Plains Communications disclaims, and Quick Current-Nebraska LLC and Quick Current-Iowa LLC acknowledge, however, that this letter of support and any other prior or subsequent discussions regarding this topic do not constitute a binding agreement, commitment, or obligation between the parties. All services rendered by Great Plains Communications are conditioned on the parties entering a definitive written agreement that will outline the specific services, compensation, terms and conditions of such arrangement, and to obtain such a binding agreement additional detailed legal documents and engineering specification would be required, which would occur post award if the parties reach agreement. When and if agreement is reached, Great Plains Communications would serve this project only as a vendor, contractor, and/or consultant (independent contractor), and not as a co-applicant to the grant. Any such agreement would also require approval from the Board of Managers for Great Plains Communications.

Great Plains Communications looks forward to continuing discussions with the Omaha Tribe to determine how we might be able to assist this project.

Sincerely,

Nick Holle
Corporate Counsel
Great Plains Communications LLC

1600 Great Plains Centre
PO Box 500
Blair, NE 68008
1.888.343.8014
www.gpcom.com

PO Box 569
Lockhart, Texas 78644-0569

Brian D. DeHaven
President
Phone: 713-231-1007
Fax: 877-733-1492

September 29, 2022

USFon Inc.
PO Box 569
Lockhart, TX 78644-0569

RE: Support for Omaha Tribe's Middle Mile Project – Application Number GRN - 001447

Dear Omaha Tribe of Nebraska:

USFon Inc. is pleased to submit this letter of support for the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska's application to the Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program.

USFon was formed in 2008 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit Texas CLEC with the intent of providing affordable broadband and voice services to those in need at reasonable rates. USFon works with educational institutions to provide lit and dark fiber connectivity between campus of major universities and rural community campuses, rural independent school districts, and municipalities. We welcome partnering with existing or new service providers to provide affordable connectivity to rural and low-income residents in Texas.

USFon Inc. has been in discussion with the both Quick Current-Nebraska LLC and Quick Current-Iowa LLC which are owned by the Omaha Tribe to support application number GRN-001447 middle mile broadband infrastructure project. Such discussions center around the use of USFon's knowledge and experience with designing, managing the implementation of, and operating middle-mile networks to help the tribe reach its goal of creating a sustainable business that features the proposed fiber network. Given the rural nature of the geography involved and the overwhelming need for improved broadband accessibility in the area, this effort fits precisely with USFon's mission as a not-for-profit.

USFon Inc. looks forward to working with the Omaha Tribe and contributing to the success of this project.

Sincerely,

Brian D. DeHaven

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the foregoing resolution was considered at a duly called meeting of the Omaha Tribal Council on the 27 day of September, 2022, and was adopted by a vote of: 5 for; **Resolution No. 22-114**

0 against; 1 abstaining; with the Chairman not voting. A quorum of 6 was present.

Submitted by:

Gwen Porter 9/27/2022

Gwendolyn Porter, **Secretary,** Date

Omaha Tribal Council

Attest:

9-27-2022

Leander Merrick, **Chairman,** Date

Omaha Tribal Council

OTON Resolution 22-114

education, healthcare delivery and the opportunity for all to participate fully in economic development; and

WHEREAS: the Broadband goals of the Omaha Tribe include 1- supporting and providing affordable telecommunications services; 2- maintaining and advancing the efficiency and availability of telecommunications services; and 3- ensuring that unserved and underserved areas as well as non-contiguous trust lands receive sufficient broadband infrastructure investment such as middle mile fiber; and

WHEREAS: The Middle Mile Infrastructure Grant Program provides funding for the construction, improvement or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting areas that are unserved or underserved to the internet backbone; and

WHEREAS: The Omaha Tribal Council agrees to comply with all applicable laws, environmental requirements, and regulations as stated in the Notice of Award under CFDA Number 11.033 – the Middle Mile Infrastructure Grant Program, and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Omaha Tribal Council hereby endorses the Middle Mile Infrastructure Grant Program as a step towards achieving future-proof Broadband access; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: the Omaha Tribal Council adopts this Resolution in support of the Omaha Tribe's application for funding under the NTIA Middle Mile Infrastructure Grant Program (NTIA-MMG-2022) in the amount of $36,605,938.88 with its 100% wholly-owned subsidiary Quick Current LLC as a co-applicant and Quick Current -Nebraska LLC, Quick Current-Iowa LLC and Great Plains Communications as subcontractors. In addition, the Omaha Tribe requests a full waiver of the non-Federal cost sharing requirement of the Middle Mile Infrastructure Grant.

OMAHA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Executive Officers
Members
Leander Merrick, Chairman
Cheyenne Robinson, Vice-Chairwoman
Jazelle Miller, Treasurer
Gwendolyn Porter, Secretary

Carlton Edwards
Alan Harlan
Primo Hallowell

RESOLUTION NO. 22-114

OF THE

OMAHA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

RE: In Support of the Grant Application Submission for the NTIA Middle Mile Infrastructure Grant Program (NTIA-MMG-2022)

WHEREAS: The Omaha Tribe of Nebraska is a federally recognized Indian tribe, organized under a constitution and bylaws approved by the Secretary of Interior on April 30, 1936, pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934; and

WHEREAS: pursuant to Article III, Sec.1 of the constitution of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, the governing body of the Omaha Tribe shall also be known as Tribal Council; and

WHEREAS: Article IV, Section 1 (a) of the Constitution of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska provides the Omaha Tribal Council with the power to negotiate with the Federal, State, and local governments on behalf of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS: Article IV, Section 1 (j) of the Constitution of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska provides the Omaha Tribal Council with the power to safeguard and promote the economy and general welfare of the Omaha Tribe; and

WHEREAS: future-proof Broadband internet networks are essential infrastructure in the current economy and vital to job creation,