

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service)
Commission, on its own motion, seeking to) Application NO. NUSF-92.09
administer the Nebraska Universal Service)
Fund's Broadband Program: Application to)
the Nebraska Broadband Program Received)
from Inventive Wireless of Nebraska, LLC d/b/a)
Vistabeam)

Pre-filing Testimony on Behalf of Application

Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. My name is Matt Larsen. My business address is 1225 Sage Street, Gering, Nebraska, 69341

Q. On what company's behalf is this testimony submitted?

A. This testimony is submitted on behalf of Inventive Wireless of Nebraska, LLC, dba Vistabeam

Q. What is your position and what are your areas of responsibility for Vistabeam?

A. I am the CEO and majority owner of Vistabeam. I am also the author of the applications submitted under the Nebraska Broadband Pilot Program.

Q. Please summarize your educational background.

A. I received my Bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln

Q. Please summarize your background in the telecommunications industry.

A. I have owned and operated multiple Internet Service Provider businesses since 1997. In 1997, I established Scottsbluff Networkx, a dialup ISP serving the Scottsbluff, Nebraska and Torrington, Wyoming calling areas. Scottsbluff Networkx also offered DSL service through Unbundled Network Elements (UNEs) starting in 1998. In 1998, I started a second company called Panhandle Networkx that offered dialup service and fixed wireless service in the Qwest territories of the Nebraska Panhandle. Panhandle Networkx later obtained CLEC status when the ILEC threatened to disconnect the UNE's that we were using to provide DSL service. In 2000, Scottsbluff Networkx and Panhandle Networkx were sold to Airwave Wireless, and I was employed by Airwave Wireless until September of 2003. In May of 2004, I started Inventive Wireless of Nebraska, LLC, dba Vistabeam, with the intention of building a fixed wireless network that completely bypassed the traditional landline telephone networks. In the last ten years, Vistabeam has grown to cover an area of approximately 20,000 square miles across Western Nebraska, Eastern Wyoming and Northern Colorado. I am one of the founding members of WISPA, the Wireless Internet Service Providers Association, and am a past President of the organization. I am

currently a member of the Federal Communication Commission Open Internet Advisory Committee and I also serve on the Broadband Infrastructure Technology Advisory Group.

Q. Vistabeam filed nine project applications for funding in this docket. Can you briefly describe these nine projects and their impact on customers?

A. Yes, Vistabeam did file nine project applications, for customers in Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Deuel, Garden, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff and Sioux Counties. Vistabeam is already serving some customers in these counties with fixed wireless broadband service. Although Vistabeam is offering up to 12Meg speeds to residential customers in many of our service areas, the customers that are identified in these applications are running on older systems that are only capable of delivering up to 3Meg speeds to end users. In each of our applications, we are proposing the installation of higher capacity backhaul to each tower location, installation of higher capacity access points at each tower and changing out the customer premise equipment to updated units. These updated will allow all of the customers of those access points to receive higher broadband speeds up to 12Meg download and 4Meg upload.

Q. CenturyLink has raised objections to the Scotts Bluff and Morrill County projects. Other parties have filed as intervenors. Can you explain the basis for their objections?

A. Due to the nature of fixed wireless deployments, the coverage areas of the projects overlap into census tracts that are already served by existing broadband providers.

Q. Does that fact that other providers may serve a portion of the area of Vistabeam's projects automatically disqualify Vistabeam's project?

A. No. As Staff has explained in its recommendations, there are a number of factors that are used to determine the ranking of the projects. The Vistabeam projects are serving many areas that are either unserved or underserved, are very cost effective compared to the other proposed projects and will provide direct improvements to current customers. The Staff looked at many different factors when considering these projects, and their recommendations were to fund all of the Vistabeam proposed projects.

Q. Do the Vistabeam projects only address the areas covered by other providers?

A. No. The Vistabeam projects will be much broader in geography than the areas served by the wireline providers. The project will impact rural areas that are outside the scope of the wireline provider's facilities. Many rural households will be positively impacted by the projects.

Q. Is it possible to revise Vistabeam's projects as to somehow exclude the areas serviced by other broadband providers?

A. In order to get maximum capacity on our fixed wireless systems, all customers on an access point must have the customer premise equipment switched out. There are Vistabeam customers within some of those areas that have chosen to not do business with existing providers because of

customer support issues, service restrictions or price differences. Excluding customers that live in census tracts served by existing broadband providers from these projects, as was requested by CenturyLink, would be discriminatory against those customers, reduce the overall capacity of the proposed network and impose an unnecessary administrative burden for compliance.

Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

A. Yes it does.



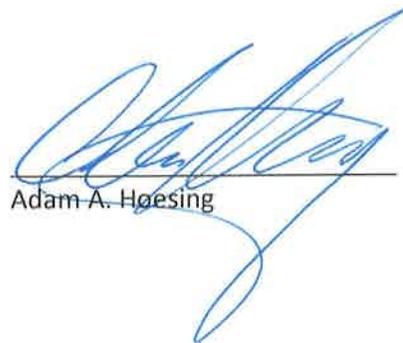
Matt Larsen

Dated: May 9, 2014

Certificate of Service

I, Adam A. Hoelsing, on behalf of Inventive Wireless of Nebraska, LLC, dba Vistabeam, certify that the foregoing testimony was electronically filed on the Commission on May 9, 2014, that a copy of the foregoing was sent to the following parties via email on May 9, 2014, and that the original of this testimony and five copies was sent by first class mail, postage pre-paid, to the Commission on May 9, 2014.

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