

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service)
Commission, on its own motion, seeking to)
administer the Nebraska Universal Service) Application No. NUSF-92.13
Fund's Broadband Program: Application)
to the Nebraska Broadband Program)
Received from Raicom, Inc.)

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF MIKE HUGGENBERGER IN OPPOSITION TO APPLICATION

Q. Please state your name.

A. My name is Mike Huggenberger.

Q. Please state your position with and the name of your current employer and provide a summary of your duties.

A. I am the Senior Director – Technology and Engineering Services for Great Plains Communications, Inc. (“Great Plains”). My duties include managing the following engineering support staffs: Information Technologies (“IT”), IP Engineering, CATV Engineering, Central Office Engineering, and the Network Operations Center.

Q. Prior to assuming your current positions what was your employment background?

A. I have been an IT and networking professional for 41 years. I have held various technical and managerial positions with three Fortune 500 companies in the Omaha area: Mutual of Omaha, CenturyLink (US WEST), and ConAgra. I have been employed at Great Plains since June, 2000. I have a master’s degree in Computer Systems Management from Creighton University and a master’s degree in Interdisciplinary Telecommunications from the University of Colorado. I am a certified business

continuity planner and I have been an adjunct professor at the College of St. Mary in Omaha for the past 15 years.

Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A. My testimony is provided in opposition to the project identified by Raicom, Inc. (“Raicom”) in this application as “Project 3 – Rural Wauneta” (“Project 3”) for which the Commission Staff has recommended funding of \$100,944. Great Plains filed a Formal Intervention in this docket and has been granted formal intervenor status by the Commission.

Q. Can you please generally describe the basis for Great Plains’ opposition to Project 3?

A. Great Plains Communications opposes Project 3 as a result of its overlap of areas of Northwest Chase County, Nebraska for which broadband service (as defined by the Commission) will be implemented later this year (the “Project 3 Duplicate Areas”). The Project 3 Duplicate Areas are a part of Great Plains Imperial Exchange. A physical count of households in the Project 3 Duplicate Areas as shown by Great Plains’ CAD exchange map of its Imperial Exchange discloses a total of 210 affected households. Of those total households, 54, or 25.7%, will be served by Great Plains by 4th Quarter 2014 as a result of a Commission grant of Nebraska Broadband Program (“NEBP”) funding in the 2013 NUSF-77 proceeding (the “2013 NEBP Grant”).

Raicom amended this NUSF-92.13 application to remove its project proposed for the southern part of Chase County. However, notwithstanding GPC’s negotiations with Raicom, it refused to amend or remove Project 3 from this application despite the over

25% overlap of served households due to funding of broadband in this area through the 2013 NEBP Grant to Great Plains.

As stated on page 13 of the Recommendation of the Commission Staff, “the influx of [2014] applications again results in demand significantly outpacing supply.” Given this condition and the scarcity of NUSF support for the NEBP, it is not only irrational, but also is contrary to Commission policies to grant funding for the Project 3 Duplicate Areas which Raicom seeks.

Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

A. Yes.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on this 9th day of May, 2014, the original, five copies, and an electronic copy of the foregoing pleading was delivered to:

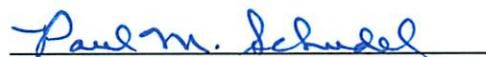
Nebraska Public Service Commission

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