

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)
Fund's Broadband Program: Application)
to the Nebraska Broadband Program)
Received from Cambridge Telephone)
Company)

Application No. NUSF-92.18

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF J. THOMAS SHOEMAKER IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION

Q. Please state your name.

A. My name is J. Thomas Shoemaker.

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

A. My current position is that of Executive Vice President and Chief Regulatory Officer of Cambridge Telephone Company ("Cambridge"). As part of my duties, I ensure that all operations comply with applicable federal, state, and local regulations and I represent Cambridge before regulatory agencies, legislative bodies, and industry associations. In the performance of my duties, I am expected to manage all activities of Cambridge, either directly or through subordinate managers, including negotiation of interconnection agreements with other carriers; provide reports to the Board of Directors; manage the profit and loss responsibilities for Cambridge; interpret and implement policies; plan, direct, coordinate, and oversee all of Cambridge's lines of business; and determine objectives, establish operating procedures, and ensure the success of Cambridge within guidelines and authority established by the Board.

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

A. Prior to coming to Cambridge 14 years ago, I spent time in both the golf industry and the retail sales space. I was an assistant golf professional for a semi private golf course in Gilbert, Arizona. In the 14 years I have been with Cambridge, I have held many positions within Cambridge from outside sales and retail sales, to project management of wire line and wireless deployments

Q. Please describe the Applicant and its business.

A. Cambridge is a common carrier subject to the jurisdiction of the Nebraska Public Service Commission ("Commission"). Cambridge holds a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by this Commission and operates general telecommunications businesses in Nebraska. The Commission's September 30, 2014 Annual Report to the Legislature regarding telecommunications shows that as of December 31, 2013, Cambridge served approximately 950 voice lines. Cambridge focuses on providing high speed internet and advanced telephone services to its customers in rural Nebraska.

Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

A. My testimony is provided to support Application No. NUSF-92.18 filed with the Commission by Cambridge for funding from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund Broadband Program ("Application"). The Application is incorporated in my testimony by reference.

Q. Can you please generally describe the Application?

A. Cambridge filed separate applications seeking funding for three projects. Of these projects, I would like to focus the Commission's review on the project we titled Cambridge RCSA 13B. This project will provide broadband service to underserved rural

customers located north of the town of Cambridge in Cambridge's service territory. Cambridge intends to build out fiber to the premises which will meet or exceed the required 4 Mbps/1 Mbps throughput service required by the Commission. This fiber and associated electronic facilities will allow Cambridge to provide download and upload speeds of 1 Gbps as broadband usage shifts and demand for additional speed capabilities rises. Applicant has advised the Staff that this is a section of network that is dependent upon RCSA 13A to be built before it can come into service. Cambridge is currently working on the plan to build RCSA 13A in advance of RCSA 13B.

Q. Are there additional details and supporting information in the Application?

A. Yes. These details are contained in the Application filed with the Commission and the Application conforms to the application checklist approved by the Commission.

Q. Do you support the Staff recommendation regarding the Application?

A. Yes. I appreciate the Staff's recommendation to approve the Application and I respectfully request that the Commission adopt the Staff's recommendation regarding the Application. I would also add that the Application is unopposed.

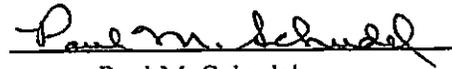
Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

A. Yes.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on this 16th day of June, 2015, the original, five copies, and an electronic copy of the foregoing pleading was delivered to:

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