

## OMAHA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

**Executive Officers**

Leander Merrick, Chairman  
Primo Hallowell, Vice-Chairman  
Jazelle Miller, Treasurer  
Cheyenne Robinson, Secretary

**Members**

Jason Sheridan  
Jerome Hamilton  
Alan Harlan

March 30, 2023

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa:

The Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and Iowa is submitting this application in response to the OCIO Invitation to Qualify for a Broadband Intervention Zone. The Tribal Government and its communities in Iowa represent local businesses and rural residents and has identified specific areas of geographic concern that lack existing high-speed and reliable broadband availability. As such, we are proposing that a Broadband Intervention Zone be established for our tribal land areas in and around the communities in:

- Albaton IA in Monona County
- Onawa IA in Monona County
- Salix IA in Woodbury County
- Whiting IA in Monona County

Additionally, our Tribe has acquired licensed spectrum in these counties, and has created a telecom enterprise, Quick Current LLC with a subsidiary to operate broadband services in Iowa, Quick Current-Iowa LLC.

Pursuant to the Iowa Broadband Map v.5, these areas are currently served by a single broadband provider and with speeds that do not meet the required 100/20 minimum threshold for robust connectivity.

It is our hope that the ITQ application and review of same by OCIO will designate the communities and counties above as a geographic area of concern / Intervention Zone for consideration in the next broadband grant program.

Sincerely,

Leander Merrick  
Omaha Tribal Chairman

Address 101 Main St. P.O. Box 368 Macy, Nebraska 68039 • Phone (402) 837-5391 • Fax (402) 837-5308



Mr. Brad Appleton, CEO  
Blackbird Bend Corporation  
17214 210<sup>th</sup> Street  
Onawa, Iowa

March 28, 2023

Omaha Tribe of Nebraska & Iowa  
101 Main Street  
P.O. Box 368  
Macy, NE 68039

As the CEO of Blackbird Bend Corporation with our primary facility located in Onawa, Iowa, I would like to express our support for the Tribe's efforts to implement reliable high-speed internet services, and its positive impacts for our business and community members. Our company is a gaming/entertainment company and has about 100 employees. We have been operating in our area for nearly 30 years. Some of our business challenges related to broadband are systems reliability, recruiting and retaining employees and marketing to customers.

Without reliable high-speed broadband access, we face a major impediment to delivering service to our customers in a very competitive market. It is also necessary to be able to provide reliable broadband services in the community for our employees and their families; otherwise, we are challenged in our recruitment of employees. Again, we support the Tribe's efforts to increase the availability of reliable, high-speed internet in our area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "BA", is written over a large, faint, stylized graphic of a bird in flight that spans the width of the page.

Brad Appleton

cc      file

March 22, 2023

To Whom it May Concern -

I am a resident of Monona County in Iowa, and am employed with the Omaha Tribe as a Payroll Supervisor. One of the most significant challenges we face is obtaining internet access to serve the education, health and social needs of our children and family, especially when working from home.

Having reliable internet during the pandemic was and continues to be a nightmare.

My children struggle with poor internet access, which leads less resources for their academic success and opportunities.

I believe all residents and students in our area should be provided with ability to engage, learn and succeed. Also, we should have reliable internet access to meet the needs of our family for working, school, accessing government and social services.

I strongly support the Omaha Tribe's efforts to obtain better internet services in our area.

Sincerely,




Suzy Aldrich

600 11<sup>th</sup> St.

Onawa, IA 51040

Cell# (402) 992-8908



March 22, 2023

To Whom it May Concern -

I am a resident of Monona County in Iowa. One of the most significant challenges we face is obtaining internet access to serve the education, health and social needs of our children and family, especially when working from home.

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Sincerely,

Brandy McCarty

March 22, 2023

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Sincerely,

Marilyn Steable

March 22, 2023

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Sincerely,

Marless Kitchner

March 22, 2023

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I strongly support the Omaha Tribe's efforts to obtain better internet services in our area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark G. Westgaard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

March 22, 2023

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy Archer". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.