

Public Notice Submission

Provider Name: Red River Rural Telephone Association

Summary: Red River Rural Telephone Association (RRRTA) submits comments on XO Communications Easygrant #5601 and City of Fargo Easygrant #6178. RRRTA demonstrates that it provides broadband services, including high speed fiber optic transport and tiered internet services, within its serving areas of Richland, Ransom, and Sargent Counties in North Dakota, and within its serving areas of Clay, Wilkin, Ottertail and Traverse Counties in Minnesota. In addition, RRRTA has partnered with other carriers in the region to establish and operate high speed fiber optic transport ring networks. The services proposed by XO and City of Fargo would duplicate an already robust fiber optic network that has been in place and in service through the efforts of RRRTA and other regional carriers.

Additionally, RRRTA has an established partnership with Dakota Carrier Networks (DCN), Easygrant #4278, who has an application in place to complete the placement of fiber optics to all remaining Education, State Agencies, Medical and Public Safety sites not currently served on fiber optics within the state of North Dakota.

RRRTA submits that further subsidization for a network that duplicates facilities already in place would be a poor use of funding under the Act and could in fact preclude funding to other worthy projects throughout the country. RRRTA recommends the funding requests be denied.