[REDACTED**]**

[redacted] GPC proposes a [redacted] last-mile project that, with $11,846,320 in grant support [redacted], will result in the delivery of broadband services of up to 20Mbps to [redacted] unserved subscribers in rural portions of Nebraska. The project would enable the deployment [redacted] to 64 unserved last-mile service areas spread across 8 rural Nebraska communities and 925 census blocks. The project includes transport spans to ensure that these 64 unserved last-mile areas and other last-mile service areas throughout rural Nebraska have adequate connectivity to the Internet backbone at reasonable prices.

GPC's incumbent service territory covers 14,000 square miles - an area greater than Connecticut, New Jersey and Rhode Island combined - with an average population density of fewer than two subscribers per square mile. The largest community within GPC's incumbent serving area is Imperial, Nebraska, with a total population of 2,000 residents. Given such distances and densities, it is difficult to justify building a broadband network beyond the relatively more populated communities. Yet GPC has made significant strides in these rural areas, thereby assuring that most of the residents, businesses, and community anchor institutions it serves have broadband connectivity. But without a grant, it is unlikely that broadband service would reach outlying areas - such as the 64 last-mile service areas that are the subject of this application - for many years, if ever. Delivering broadband to such areas would require capital expenditures at many multiples of GPC's annual capital budget and customer revenues could not even come close to recovering these expenditures absent a grant.

[redacted] Given the deeply rural and significantly remote nature of the PFSAs for which GPC requests Recovery Act funding, GPC is therefore seeking grant funding of $11,846,320 [redacted] from RUS, and respectfully requests that NTIA award $11,846,320 [redacted] in BTOP grant funding if RUS determines not to award BIP funding [redacted]. As shown herein, the project to these extremely rural communities is economically sustainable [redacted] and would greatly benefit these areas.

A grant of this application would further the purposes of the Recovery Act in numerous ways. First, GPC would expand its broadband network into rural and significantly remote unserved areas in its vast service territory. The project would also enable or improve broadband access for schools, libraries, health care providers, institutions of higher learning, and public safety agencies for those institutions serving these outlying locations. [redacted]

GPC proposes to deploy a [redacted] network to deliver broadband services in the 64 last mile PFSAs. This is the most efficient engineering approach, reaching the most customers at the least cost. GPC would provide broadband access to [redacted] unserved customers, allowing speeds of up

to 20 Mbps on a terrestrial network. In addition, 3 transport fiber spans [redacted] will be constructed to fill "gaps" in existing connections between the unserved last-mile service areas in this application (and other rural last-mile service areas) and Internet backbone interconnection points. Non-GPC customers can also realize the benefit of this transport network since GPC will provide access on an open and non-discriminatory basis at reasonable rates.

This project would make broadband available to all customers located in 64 outlying unserved last-mile service areas located near 8 rural communities – Arnold, Bloomfield, Crofton, Deshler, Imperial, Sutherland, Wisner and Wynot. These communities - and the PFSAs comprising the out-of-town areas – are in GPC's serving area in southern, central and northeast Nebraska.

Furthermore, to ensure the success and affordability of this last-mile network, the 3 transport spans will be necessary to connect the PFSAs to the Internet backbone and enhance available broadband speeds for existing GPC customers in other underserved areas. [redacted]

[redacted]

GPC has been in business for one-hundred years and has a strong record of providing state-of-the-art technology to rural customers. GPC has proven itself capable of deploying, operating and maintaining broadband networks in extremely large areas with extremely low population densities, having built a network that today provides broadband service to 9,000 customers in rural Nebraska.

GPC is financially strong and can offer a broad range of services to assure that the new broadband infrastructure will be supported far into the future. GPC is taking substantial strides to invest in and to deploy a sustainable project. For example, while this application serves vast rural and significantly remote last-mile areas for which any capital investment is difficult to justify, GPC is proposing to obtain [redacted] $11,846,320 [redacted] in the form of a grant. GPC will provide the balance of the project costs [redacted] in the form of [redacted] matching contributions. [redacted]

[REDACTED**]**

[redacted] GPC is thereby demonstrating that it has the wherewithal to support this infrastructure and has a significant stake in the sustainability and viability of this project.

[redacted] Moreover, as a result of the transport portion of the project, vast portions of rural Nebraska will have direct access to a Tier 1 backbone provider.

This project will benefit [redacted] community anchor, public safety, and critical community facilities by establishing broadband service in the 64 unserved last-mile service areas. In turn, these rural customers will have improved communications with these institutions, entities and facilities located in nearby communities of interest.

GPC adheres to the Federal Communication Commission's Internet Policy Statement, and does not favor any lawful applications or content over others. GPC will also offer interconnection with the proposed network, where technically feasible without exceeding current or reasonably anticipated capacity limits, on reasonable rates and terms to be negotiated with requesting parties. This includes the ability to connect to the public Internet and physical interconnection for traffic exchange. GPC will also post its network management policy to its website and notify customers of any changes to that policy.

GPC plans to begin construction as soon as a grant is awarded. GPC estimates that the project would create [redacted] jobs during that two-year period, in addition to the indirect job creation and other economic benefits that would result from a dramatic expansion of broadband access.

In closing, please note that the information provided with this application is highly confidential and proprietary. GPC has attempted to identify its essays, uploaded attachments, and other documents as confidential to the extent technically feasible. GPC respectfully requests that all portions of this application (including maps that have been uploaded separately through the mapping system), with the exception of that information required to be disclosed pursuant to the Recovery Act, be treated as confidential and exempt from disclosure pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4).