

**TO APPROVE OKLAHOMA WESTERN TELEPHONE COMPANY'S APPLICATION FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 2024 RURAL ECONNECTIVITY (RECONNECT) PROGRAM**

**IN THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION**

**RONALD PERRY INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL BILL**

**A COUNCIL BILL**

**TO APPROVE** consent and support for Oklahoma Western Telephone Company's application to the United States Department of Agriculture Rural eConnectivity (ReConnect) Program to provide broadband access within the Choctaw Nation Reservation.

**WHEREAS**, Article IX, Section 4 of the Constitution of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (the "Nation") provides that the Tribal Council (the "Council") shall enact legislation, rules and regulations not inconsistent with the Constitution for the general good of the Choctaw Nation and for the administration and regulation of the affairs of the Choctaw Nation;

**WHEREAS**, the Choctaw Nation (the "Nation") realizes the need to expand broadband infrastructure on tribal lands increasing access to and adoption of broadband by citizens to increase quality of life and services;

**WHEREAS**, Oklahoma Western Telephone Company is eligible for funding to provide broadband infrastructure deployment including new infrastructure, replacing or upgrading existing infrastructure and equipment, and extending existing infrastructure and services with Federal funds within the Choctaw Nation Reservation;

**WHEREAS**, in order to receive said federal funding, the Nation must enact legislation showing its consent and support for Oklahoma Western Telephone Company to perform this work within the Choctaw Nation Reservation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has determined it is in the best interest of the Nation to provide its consent and support for Oklahoma Western Telephone Company's application to the United States Department of Agriculture for the 2024 Rural eConnectivity (ReConnect) Program in order to provide broadband access/service within the Choctaw Nation Reservation.

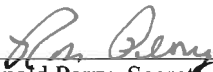
**THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED** by the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma that this Bill be cited as the Nation's consent to the Federal Communications Commission for Oklahoma Western Telephone Company's application to the United States Department of Agriculture for the 2024 Rural eConnectivity (ReConnect) Program in order to provide broadband access/service within the Choctaw Nation Reservation.

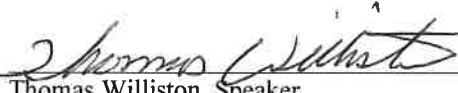
**CERTIFICATION**

*I, the undersigned, as speaker of the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of twelve (12) seats. Eight (8) members must be present to constitute a quorum. I further certify that Twelve (12) members answered roll call and that a quorum was present at the Regular Session of the Tribal Council at Tuskahoma, Oklahoma on July 13, 2024. I further certify that the foregoing Council Bill CB-79.2-24 was adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of Twelve (12) members, zero (0) negative votes, and zero (0) abstaining.*

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Ronald Perry, Secretary  
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council

  
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Thomas Williston, Speaker  
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council

  
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Gary Batton, Chief  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Date 7/19/24

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**Purpose/Need of Council Bill:** Oklahoma Western Telephone Company is eligible for funding to provide broadband infrastructure deployment, including new infrastructure, replacing or upgrading existing infrastructure and equipment, and extending existing infrastructure and services with Federal funds within the Choctaw Nation Reservation. In order to receive this federal funding, the Nation must enact legislation showing its consent and support for Oklahoma Western Telephone Company to perform this work within the Choctaw Nation Reservation. This bill meets the Nation's strategic goal of achieving digital transformation to be strategically positioned in the digital economy through access to broadband.

**Title of Council Bill: TO APPROVE OKLAHOMA WESTERN TELEPHONE COMPANY'S  
APPLICATION FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 2024 RURAL  
ECONNECTIVITY (RECONNECT) PROGRAM**

**Federal Agency:** United States Department of Agriculture

**CNO Dept:** Information Technology

**Budget:** \$25,000,000 (or as need allows)

**Match Required:** N/A

**Total Budget:** N/A

**Request by Project Director/SEO:** Rob Griffin, Tribal Broadband Coordinator; David Ledford, Executive Director of Information Technology; Kelly McKaughan, SEO Integrated Services

**Suggested Legislative Committee Review:** Member Services