

TO APPROVE AND SUPPORT OKLAHOMA WESTERN TELEPHONE COMPANY'S APPLICATION  
FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY CONNECT GRANT  
PROGRAM

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IN THE TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION

RONALD PERRY INTRODUCED THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL BILL

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A COUNCIL BILL

**TO APPROVE** consent and support for Oklahoma Western Telephone Company's application to the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service Community Connect Grant 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 in Albion, Oklahoma, 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 Rural Utilities Service for the Community Connect Grant 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 and support for Oklahoma Western Telephone Company's application to the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service for the Community Connect Grant Program in order to provide broadband access/service within the Choctaw Nation Reservation.

**CERTIFICATION**

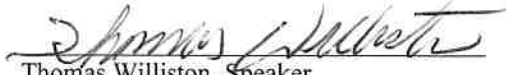
*I, the undersigned, as speaker of the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of twelve (12) seats. Eight (8) members must be present to constitute a quorum. I further certify that Eleven (11) members answered roll call and that a quorum was present at the Regular Session of the Tribal Council at Tuskahoma, Oklahoma on August 10, 2024. I further certify that the foregoing Council Bill CB- 89 -24 was adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of Eleven (11) members, Zero (0) negative votes, and Zero (0) abstaining.*

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Ronald Perry, Secretary  
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council



Thomas Williston, Speaker  
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council



Gary Batton, Chief  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Date 8-12-24

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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 in Albion, Oklahoma, 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 AND SUPPORT OKLAHOMA WESTERN TELEPHONE COMPANY'S APPLICATION FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY CONNECT GRANT PROGRAM

**Federal Agency:** United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service

**CNO Dept:** Information Technology

**Budget:** \$2,073,399.00

**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