

February 3, 2010

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Portals
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Ex Parte**
WC Docket No. 02-60, Request for Extension of Time

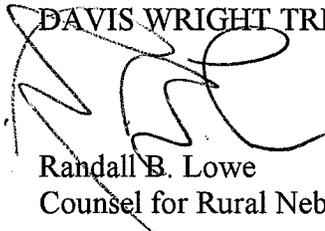
Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Rural Nebraska Healthcare Network ("RNHN"), filed herewith is its Request for Extension of Time in the above-referenced docket. By this request, RNHN seeks a one-year extension of the June 30, 2010 deadline for funding under the Rural Health Care Pilot Program.

Please address any correspondence concerning this matter to the undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIS WRIGHT TREMAINE LLP



Randall B. Lowe
Counsel for Rural Nebraska Healthcare Network

Enclosure

cc: Thomas Buckley (via email)
Ernesto Beckford (via email)

Rural Nebraska Healthcare Network

A Regional System of Care Provided Locally

4021 Avenue B
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

February 1, 2010

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Portals
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Request for Extension of June 30, 2010 deadline for Funding Commitments under the Universal Service Rural Health Care Pilot Program (WC Docket No. 02-60)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The purpose of this letter is to request a one year extension of the June 30, 2010 funding deadline under the Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Program ("RHCPP").

The Rural Nebraska Healthcare Network ("RNHN") is a participant in the RHCPP. In particular, RNHN was awarded support of \$19.2M under the RHCPP to design, construct, operate, and maintain a fiber optic network connecting each of its member hospitals with each other and with other healthcare facilities. However, as required by the Commission's Order approving RNHN's RHCPP Application, RNHN had to revise the funding approach to its project. (Order, FCC 07-158, paragraph 77 and footnote 245.) The funding alternative, as set forth in RNHN's Sustainability Plan, requires the construction of a second cable and the sale of IRUs on that cable.

The process of revising its approach with a sustainable alternative took 20 months of planning and due diligence. Nevertheless, RNHN has completed the 465 process and closed the bidding on the project by mid-October, 2009. In late November, 2009, a vendor was chosen and RNHN is now in the early stages of negotiations with that vendor. Although early interest in the IRUs was shown by a number of potential buyers, this interest has waned. RNHN is now pursuing an opportunity to sell all of the IRUs to a single buyer.

In light of the prolonged planning and due diligence period and the challenge of selling the IRUs, RNHN is not confident that it can complete the 466 process and receive a Funding

Box Butte General Hospital
2101 Box Butte Ave
Allamore NE 68301
Dan Griess, CEO

Chadron Community Hospital
821 Morehead
Chadron NE 69337
Harold Krueger, CEO
RNHN Vice President

Garden County Health Services
1100 West Second
Oshkosh NE 69154
Carol Kraus, CEO

Gordon Memorial Hospital
300 E 8th St
Gordon NE 69343
James LeBrun, CEO

Kimball Health Services
505 S Burg
Kimball Ne 69145
Julie Schnell, CEO

Memorial Health Center
845 Osage St
Sidney Ne 69162
Danielle Gearhart, CEO
RNHN Secretary-Treasurer

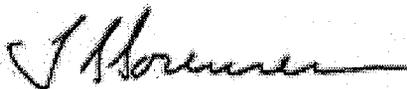
Morrill County Community Hospital
PO Box 679
Bridgeport NE 69336-0579
Julia Morrow, CEO

Perkins County Health Services
PO Box 26
Grant NE 69140
Pam Holm, Administrator

Regional West Medical Center
4021 Ave B
Scottsbluff NE 69361
Todd Sorensen, MD, CEO
RNHN President

Commitment Letter by the June 30, 2010 funding deadline. RNHN believes that given its good faith and diligent efforts to meet the changes to its funding approach, as required by the Commission's RHCPP Order, and the healthcare benefits that its network will bring to the Panhandle of Nebraska, as evidenced by the Commission's acceptance of the RNHN Application, the extension is in the public interest. Indeed, without the extension, the healthcare network of RNHN will be at risk, which would rob western Nebraska of an opportunity to improve healthcare and access to healthcare for its citizens. Therefore, we respectfully request a one year extension of the current funding deadline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Sorensen", written in a cursive style.

Todd Sorensen, MD
President