



January 31, 2020

Sen. Curt Friesen, Chairperson  
Transportation & Telecommunications Committee  
Nebraska State Capitol Room 1110  
Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

**Re: LB 992, Letter of Support**

On behalf of the Nebraska Library Association (NLA), I wish to submit this letter in support of LB 992, introduced by Senator Curt Friesen. Please make it part of the record for the February 3, 2020, hearing.

Our statewide association represents the libraries of our state. NLA members provide essential services to our respective communities including literature, media, computer labs, and meeting spaces. In many instances, our libraries serve as public Wi-Fi hotspots for citizens including students to complete schoolwork when broadband may not be available at home.

Specifically, the NLA support two sections of the bill. Section seven establishes the creation of four regional technicians to assist our technological needs. In many instances, lack of sufficient funding for personnel prohibits the attention needed to meet the demand for internet services. Assistance with such things as E-Rate filing would be incredibly helpful so that more libraries could take advantage.

We also support section eight of the bill which would establish the Nebraska E-Rate Special Construction Matching Fund Program. This would ultimately grant authority to the Nebraska Public Service Commission to establish a support mechanism and criteria for fiber optic construction to libraries.

I thank you for your consideration of LB 992, particularly our support of sections seven and eight. We believe these portions of the bill will greatly enhance our benefit to all Nebraskans.

Sincerely,

Michael Straatmann  
President, Nebraska Library Association

cc: All Committee Members  
Nick Paden