Submitted by:
Sacred Wind Communications, Inc.

To ensure the expansion of broadband in underserved rural communities of the Nation it is necessary to tap into the resources already existing in and near to those communities. Our company has found that the rural communities in New Mexico that most lack adequate broadband are those situated in Price Cap Carrier service territories. Nearly every one of those communities is adjacent to or near the service territory of a rural local exchange carrier ("RLEC") in whose own service territory broadband is far more available. In those rural communities served by an electric cooperative a partnership between the electric cooperative and the neighboring RLEC has the makings of a broadband solution for the community. The local electric cooperative might often have the desire and motivation to improve the welfare of its community and the neighboring RLEC has the expertise and financial need to join it. Sacred Wind is currently working with a local electric cooperative to deliver broadband to every premise within a town adjacent to Sacred Wind's service territory. The partnership involves the electric cooperative extending fiber last mile from the RLEC's fiber middle mile to all the town's anchor institutions and the RLEC's installation of a fixed wireless network to reach every resident and small business in the town. This joint network is capable of providing Gigabit speeds to the town's anchor institutions and no less than 20Mbps to every resident, which can be increased as demand dictates. This collaboration is being done with the two companies' own resources, but, to expand this concept to other parts of the state and to the Nation, the FCC might consider using a portion of its CAF support given to Price Cap Carriers for an inducement to create such rural partnerships. Simply condensed: the broadband solution and economic growth opportunities for rural communities should not be sought from out of state carriers but from the rural communities' own interested parties.