

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CRESTON MEETING TO DISCUSS EXTENDED AREA SERVICE WITH COLUMBUS**

LINCOLN – An informational meeting will be conducted on May 21 at the Creston Fire Hall for a discussion of a plan to establish extended area service between Creston and Columbus.

Telephone customers on the Creston exchange successfully petitioned the Nebraska Public Service Commission on November 27 to have extended area service considered for calls to and from Columbus.

Qwest, the local telephone provider for Creston, has proposed a change of \$1.80 per month for Creston residential lines and \$2 per month for business lines. Frontier Communications, which serves Columbus, would charge its customers five cents per month for the service.

Extended area service (EAS) would eliminate timed long distance charges for calls between the two communities.

The May 21 meeting in Creston, which will begin at 7 p.m., will be hosted by Qwest. Telephone company representatives as well as Fourth District Commissioner Rod Johnson, who represents Platte County on the Public Service Commission, and Gene Hand, director of the PSC's Telecommunications Department, will participate. Time will be allowed for questions and answers.

Following the meeting, the Public Service Commission will determine whether to order balloting of Creston telephone customers on the proposal. One vote is permitted per account. Frontier has asked the Commission to waive the balloting requirement for its Columbus customers.

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Send to: Columbus Telegram, Columbus radio, Humphrey Democrat, Leigh World, Associated Press.