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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PSC APPROVES EXTENDED AREA SERVICE FOR SUMNER, KEARNEY**

LINCOLN – Telephone calls between Sumner and Kearney will no longer be billed by the length of time callers are on the line.

The Nebraska Public Service Commission on Wednesday approved an extended area service proposal providing a flat rate monthly charge for calls between the two central Nebraska communities. Landline telephone users on the Sumner exchange will pay \$2.70 per month for toll-free access to Kearney while Kearney exchange subscribers will pay three cents per month for toll-free access to Sumner. Both telephone exchanges are served by Frontier, a division of Citizens Communications.

The Commission's action followed a vote by Sumner exchange subscribers. Of 100 persons submitting ballots to the Commission by the October 4 deadline, 76 were in favor of extended area service. A majority of customers eligible to vote was required for passage. The Commission rules provide one ballot for each access line.

At the request of Frontier, the Commission waived the balloting requirement in the Kearney exchange due to the minimal proposed monthly additive.

Residents of the Sumner exchange filed a petition requesting extended area service with the Public Service Commission on February 11. The Commission gave Frontier until December 15 to inaugurate the new service.

Commissioner Jerry Vap of McCook stated, "Extended area service allows Sumner residents to make unlimited calls to Kearney for one monthly fee. Those calls are the same as making a local call to anyone in the Kearney exchange. The Commission is excited to add Sumner to the other communities in the area that also have Extended Area Service Agreements."

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