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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Malmo, NE Recognized as a Smart Rural CommunitySM

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company (NNTC) recognized the Village of Malmo, NE as a Smart Rural CommunitySM (SRC) on Tuesday, March 14th at RK's Bar & Grill in Malmo at an open house sponsored by NNTC.

The designation comes from the Rural Broadband Association (NTCA) in conjunction with NNTC. This recognition is presented to those Broadband enabled communities who see an importance of Broadband Internet as a way to connect and grow through the capabilities of expanded online education, remote work, telehealth, ag technology, economic development, government services, safety and security. Malmo, NE is a Gig-Certified capable community enabling technology for all those who live and work there.

About 80 residents stopped by during the two-hour "Happy Hour" open house, which meant for a VERY full house at RK's Bar & Grill. RK's owner, Rose Pokorny, provided hot wings and other appetizers for visitors and the bar was busy the entire time. Malmo residents were invited to enjoy each other's company while NNTC GM Pat McElroy talked about the importance of being part of the cooperative.

"In the last 20 years, \$4.2 million has been paid back right here in the Malmo and Weston communities, which means that money is staying right here in your town," said McElroy.

With the extra-large crowd, McElroy talked to folks on each side of the bar separately. NNTC Board of Directors LeRoy Dvorak of Prague and Tom Stranik of Morse Bluff were also on hand to answer questions.

McElroy recognized the village and presented a The Smart Rural CommunitySM designation award to Malmo Planning and Zoning Board Member, Jennifer Chvatal.

At a time in Nebraska and the United States when government is investing millions to help close the "Digital Divide", Malmo, NE is already enjoying the same great fiber enabled speeds as those in urban areas like Lincoln and Omaha. Chvatal was proud to share during State of Nebraska speed tests for video conferencing meetings, that meeting organizers are amazed of the internet speeds she can get in rural Nebraska.

About NNTC:

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company is a telephone, internet and television service provider headquartered in Jackson, NE. NNTC serves 30 communities throughout 24 counties in northeast Nebraska. Founded in 1955, NNTC is one of Nebraska's first telephone cooperatives providing fiber service to 100% of its customers.

About NTCA:

NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association is the premier association representing nearly 850 independent, community-based telecommunications companies that are leading innovation in rural and small-town America. NTCA members are leading the technological evolution for rural consumers, delivering robust and high-quality services over future-proof networks that make rural communities vibrant places in which to live and do business. Visit NTCA at www.ntca.org.