



For Immediate Release

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Emily Cooperative Telephone Company Named Certified Gig-Capable Provider by NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association

Arlington, Va. January 12, 2017 –Emily Cooperative Telephone Company (ECTC) was today recognized by NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association, the premier association representing nearly 900 independent, community-based telecommunications companies that are leading innovation in rural and small-town America, as a Certified Gig-Capable Provider for delivering gigabit broadband speeds and enabling technological innovation in the Emily, Fifty Lakes, Little Pine and Fairfield Township communities.

As a Certified Gig-Capable Provider, ECTC joins a national campaign to build awareness and industry recognition of community-based telecom providers that have built communications networks capable of delivering Internet speeds of up to 1 gigabit per second, which is 100 times faster than those currently available in many U.S. households. ECTC also received tools to promote itself as a Gig-Capable Provider in the ECTC served communities and will be recognized in NTCA media, on the NTCA website, and during association conferences and events.

“I applaud ECTC for its commitment to delivering the Internet’s fastest speeds—an accomplishment worthy of much praise considering the unique and challenging circumstances small, community-based telecommunications providers operate under every day in serving some of our country’s most rural and remote communities,” said NTCA Chief Executive Officer Shirley Bloomfield. “By building a gigabit-capable network, ECTC has not only overcome these challenges, but also shattered conventional benchmarks for broadband speed to enable cutting-edge technologies that drive innovation and promote economic development in their communities, region and nationwide.”

To achieve certification, telecommunications companies must show that gigabit technology is currently commercially available within 95% of one or more exchanges within its serving territory and that such service can be provided without new trenching or stringing new aerial facilities. This statement must be confirmed by a letter from an engineering firm or other independent source involved in the company’s network planning, deployment or operation.

More information about the NTCA Gig-Capable Provider certification program is available at www.ntca.org/gigcertified.

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About Emily Cooperative Telephone Company

Emily Cooperative Telephone Company (ECTC), located in Emily, MN, is proud to offer the Central Minnesota communities of Emily, Fifty Lakes, Little Pine and Fairfield Townships the highest Internet speeds, the latest in high definition digital television technology and premium telephone services. In business for over 40 years, ECTC is a well-established leader in providing high quality residential and business services consisting of 1,350 telephone access lines, 860 high-speed internet connections and 670 IPTV customers covering a 156 sq. mile area in central Minnesota. ECTC is committed to providing robust connectivity to the world with affordable communication solutions for the communities served. ECTC is 100% fiber to the home, providing members with state-of-the art technology and customer service that is second to none.

About NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association

NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association is the premier association representing nearly 900 independent, community-based telecommunications companies that are leading innovation in rural and small-town America. NTCA advocates on behalf of its members in the legislative and regulatory arenas, and it provides training and development; publications and industry events; and an array of employee benefit programs. In an era of exploding technology, deregulation and marketplace competition, NTCA's members are leading the IP evolution for rural consumers, delivering technologies that make rural communities vibrant places in which to live and do business. Because of their efforts, rural America is fertile ground for innovation in economic development and commerce, education, health care, government services, security and smart energy use. Visit us at www.ntca.org.