



199 Main Street, Suite 225 | Burlington, VT 05401
1-866-227-7451 | Fax: 802-651-9805 | TTY: 1-877-434-7598
aarp.org/vt | twitter: @aarpvt | facebook.com/AARPVermont

August 25, 2020

Members of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, House Committee on Energy and Technology, and Senate Committee on Finance:

With more than 130,000 members in Vermont, AARP Vermont strongly believes that ubiquitous, affordable, and reliable high-speed internet access allows older persons to age in place safely by providing access to telehealth, civic engagement, connections with friends and family, entertainment, educational opportunities, and vital assistance programs. The pandemic has underscored the unprecedented need for more immediate ways to connect older persons to reach their loved ones and medical personnel during times of social isolation.

The Vermont Department of Public Service has a crafted sensible proposal to boost the capacity of the Communications Union Districts to improve high-speed internet access in their communities. AARP Vermont supports community involvement in achieving broadband deployment and we urge you to support the Governor's proposal to allocate \$2 million to the Department of Public Service for broadband infrastructure development in Communications Union Districts.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Marchildon".

Greg Marchildon
State Director, AARP VT

