

Theresa Utton-Jerman

Subject: Written testimony on the Governor's FY21 Budget Proposal to support CUD Operating Expenses

Hi,

I am writing on behalf of the newly formed Lamoille FiberNet Communications Unified District (LFCUD), which includes the towns of Belvidere, Cambridge, Eden, Hyde Park, Johnson, Morristown, and Waterville.

The LFCUD strongly supports the Governor's proposed \$2 million budget item to support operating expenses for CUD's. There are several new CUDs, LFCUD being one of them. These new CUDs have very limited ability to access CRF (CARES Act) money since we cannot build the necessary network by the end of 2020. Therefore the Governor's proposed \$2 million will allow the LFCUD and other Vermont CUDs to take the next step in the process to deliver True Broadband to our residents and businesses and other organizations.

Almost all of Vermont, especially rural Vermont has discovered the need for better Internet service while working at home, being educated at home, having medical appointments at home and getting our entertainment at home. We know we can fix this lack of service problem by getting True Broadband installed to every address as soon as possible to support everyone during and after this Covid-19 pandemic. True Broadband by LFCUD and the other CUDs is critical today the way electricity was in the 20th century. Lamoille County needs the economic development of 100 MBS upload and download called symmetric service. This True Broadband will let Lamoille County businesses compete anywhere on an equal footing. True Broadband will let students attend online classes while their parents are simultaneously in online meetings. Everyone can do what they want to do without affecting someone else. True Broadband helps rural people be equal to the better off city people.

Please take this step forward for all of us by approving the Governor's proposed \$2 million budget item to support operating expenses for CUD's.

Regards,
..michael..

Chair, Lamoille FiberNet CUD (LFCUD)