

**From:** F. X. Flinn <chair@vcuda.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 7:17 PM  
**To:** Faith Brown <FBrown@leg.state.vt.us>  
**Cc:** Vermont CUD Association <VCUDA@googlegroups.com>  
**Subject:** [External] CUD universal service commitment language

[External]

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

On Saturday, March 1, 2008 the towns of Hartford and Thetford held their floor meetings in advance of Australian balloting on Tuesday, March 4, Vermont Town Meeting Day. In passing common articles, those two Town Meetings founded what is today known as ECFiber. 14 other towns would pass the article a few days later, and 24 in total within the year. Here is the article as passed in Hartford:

*Shall the Town of Hartford enter into an Interlocal Contract with other municipalities, under Title 24 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated Section 4901, for the purpose of establishing a universal, open-access, financially self-sustaining broadband communications system to provide communications services, including high-speed Internet, telephone, and cable television, to the residents, businesses and institutions of these towns?*

The CUD law doesn't call for universality or open-access, or telephone or television. ECFiber describes its mission publicly and in its bond documents as determined to provide FTTP to all on-grid premises in its 31 member towns. It further commits to not limiting use of its network (what FCC rulemaking is concerned with in terms of network owners giving priority to some traffic over others, for example, that Comcast might throttle Netflix packets, i.e. net neutrality) or capping data.

In order to reach the state goal of 100/100 to every premises on the grid, some kind of language allowing VCBA to prioritize or prefer projects that intend to accomplish or become a part of a larger project that will achieve those goals would be very helpful.

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F. X. Flinn  
President, VCUDA - ECFiber Delegate  
[e:chair@vcuda.org](mailto:chair@vcuda.org) m:802-369-0069  
Vermont Communications Union Districts Association  
For organizational continuity and public record law:  
ECFiber business: [chair@ecfiber.net](mailto:chair@ecfiber.net) | Personal: [fxflinn@gmail.com](mailto:fxflinn@gmail.com)