



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Vermont State House

115 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05602

Month ##, ####

Jamey Holstein

Dear Jamey:

Thank you for taking the time to contact my office. I appreciate you sharing your views on the lack of affordable and reliable broadband access to Vermonters living in rural areas.

I share your concerns on ensuring broadband access for all Vermonters. We must acknowledge that broadband is the electricity of our time, and providing access that is both reliable and affordable to all Vermonters is one of the first steps toward building a more equitable Vermont.

I am deeply committed to this issue, and elevating the voices of Vermonters. I hope you will not hesitate to contact my office again. I look forward to seeing you in your community soon.

Wishing you good health as we work together to ensure Vermont recovers stronger from this pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly R. Gray".

Molly R. Gray
Lieutenant Governor of Vermont

802-828-2226

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@ltgovgray

- ***We must work to build a more equitable Vermont.***
- ***Vermont's small business are the backbone of our communities.***
- ***We must contain soaring healthcare costs in Vermont. Healthcare is a human right***
- ***We must contain the housing crisis. Housing is a human right.***
- ***Broadband is the electricity of our time, we must ensure access for all Vermonters.***
- ***Covid has laid everything bare we cannot go back, we must go forward and work to recover stronger from this pandemic. Addressing _____ is a top priority***
- ***Caring for Vermonters from infants to elders is critical to the economic wellbeing of Vermont families.***

Molly, hi.

My neighbors and I in Ferrisburgh are desperate for reliable high speed internet for conduction business and education and now health care access, (as well as entertainment). The "high speed dsl" we pay for now is a joke (in fact only 17mbps and drops off constantly, especially now so many, including state employees, work from home). True high speed is critical for home business, VT branding, real estate values, now education (it is not "eif", but when the next pandemic hits), and tiny copper phone lines are not designed or capable of handling large data. The only viable solution is cable and the cost to run for individual home owners is a joke (we are 1.5 miles from the closet cable in Vergenes, and were quoted \$35,000 by Comcast sub-contractor for a 3 man crew for 2 days to install). Now, if you lucky enough to live off a major corridor state rd, such as Rt 7 here, or Rt 5 in Newbury, where cable is already run by Comcast, stringing to one's home or business in not cost prohibitive. But, for most of the state, this is not the case, and the cable companies want many thousands of \$ from each customer just to get hooked up and start paying monthly fees. The governors latest budget proposal includes a paltry \$20m for the ENTIRE state for internet access and only a tiny fraction of this this is for cable line extensions. This single issue touches on every single group veying for mor \$ for their programs in the state budget - healthcare, education, farming, commerce, real estate values, sales tax from home business, tourism, emergncey services, communication, ALL need true reliable "high speed" (30+ mbps) to function, which in fact cannot occur over telephone lines in the majority of the state (distance from closet dsl phone hubs and tiny phone lines are the issue). I implore you to advocate for some significant funding much more than is proposed now) to get cable strung down rural roads across the state in the newest budget as this is an across the board critical issue - and will be worse when next pandemic hits!

From one of Sverre's SMS Nordic peeps (~83) and UVM Nordic ski-teamer to another - Thanks for your attention

Jamey

