



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Vermont State House

115 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05602

February 23, 2021

Tracie Wright
PO Box 71
Jericho, Vermont 05465

Dear Tracie:

Thank you for taking the time to contact my office and I hope you were able to attend the inaugural "Seat at the Table" on broadband in February. I am deeply committed to using my office to elevate the work and experience of Vermonters.

Working with the legislature, Governor and our federal delegation to help close Vermont's broadband gap is my top priority. As you identified, our ability to access just about everything, including worship and community, are directly linked to access to broadband. Even after this pandemic ends, and it will end, we will want to have the ability to meet virtually.

Thank you again for sharing your views. I hope you will not hesitate to contact my office again.

I wish 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

Hello. I just registered for your 2/8 "Seat at the Table" event concerning the issues of broadband access throughout our state. I am looking forward to hearing the conversation.

An additional point that I want to raise is concerning the evolving needs for broadband around religious gathering. I am a District Lay Leader for the Green Mountain District of the United Methodist Church and have heard many small rural churches who have struggled to connect (online worship services, etc.) during this time of pandemic due to lack of broadband and/or cell service in some areas. As the demographics reflect, many of these folks are elderly and miss the connections of their spiritual home and are at high-risk of this disease. Making inability to connect via technology an additional challenge for maintaining connections.

As a teacher's wife, I am aware of the challenges of disparate broadband access for our younger population. I wanted to raise the issue of our older population as well.

Thank you,

--Tracie W. Wright

Jericho, Vermont

- ***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.*