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From: Rpelletier <rpelletier13@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 9:30 AM

To: Faith Brown <FBrown@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: [External] CUDs: Available, Affordable, Accessible, Accountable

[External]

Faith,

The CUDs are committed to availability, affordability, accessibility, and accountability.

The CUDs are committed to delivering high speed broadband at 100\100 mbps to all of the residents in its district. We recognize that today the Internet is a life preserver, and that tomorrow the Internet with ever-increasing speeds is a ladder of opportunity.

The CUDs recognize that keeping subscriber fees low is the best way to make it affordable. Thus, competing the buildout of its infrastructure and paid for with federal and state grants in the near term and low cost revenue bonds in the long term is the best way to keep Vermont subscriber fees low.

But even low subscription fees does not make the Internet accessible for everyone. The CUDs are committed to providing accessibility assistance in many forms, including lower rates, installation fee reductions or waivers, and participation in programs such as Equal Access to Broadband.

Finally, CUDs are accountable, not to shareholders or investors, but as a municipality to its member communities and the people. CUDs are bound by open meeting laws, conduct their meetings in public, publish agendas and minutes.

CUDs need grant funds today. Delay is denial. Diversion of funds increases delay and subscription fees.

CUDs are an investment in Vermonters. Act today to invest in CUDs.

Ray Pelletier
Chair, Finance Committee
CVFiber