

September 17, 2020

Dear Chair Cummings and Committee Members,

I apologize for having to leave the meeting early, but I have my CUD Governing Board meeting at 5. I appreciate being able to share my thinking in writing.

- The mission of the CUDs remains the same - to extend broadband to **every** home and business in our districts. This is not the mission of commercial providers.
- Your efforts have spawned enormous action in a short period of time to extend broadband to all Vermonters. We at the local level have added thousands and thousands of hours of largely volunteer time.
- Now we are chomping at the bit to get the real work done
- That needs lots of money over a long period of time. It took EC Fiber five years to become cash positive. It will take the rest of us longer, possibly much longer.
- We need your continued work, along with the staff at the PSD, to put assets and processes in place that keep us working at the pace needed for our District and our State
- Federal funding has complicated the process. It has also awakened the commercial vendors, which will limit our available revenues in the long run, thus extending the end date to extend service to **all**.
- Extending broadband to every home and business in Vermont with future proof technology is the single best effort we can collectively undertake to strengthen Vermont's economy.

Thank you for your efforts. We are up and running all over Vermont.

Sincerely,

Ann Manwaring, Chair
DV Fiber