

August 28, 2020

Testimony to the Members of the Joint House and Senate Appropriations Committee

My name is David Healy, I am the Town of Calais Delegate to CVFiber. I am providing this testimony to request your support of the Governor's Budget request of \$2,000,000 for Vermont's Communication Union Districts.

CVFiber has recently completed its Feasibility Study and Business Plan to provide fiber to all premises in our 20 communities. We have determined we can start our first phase with a VEDA loan, but need help obtaining the required 10% match. With funds from this appropriation CVFiber can start building its first phase project starting in January 2021.

In addition, I would request your consideration of an appropriation of unallocated CARE's funding to support a proposal for a statewide pole inventory project necessary for design and engineering for fiber to every premise in Vermont. This is critical information to address the emergency needs of Vermont for providing broadband access for everyone. The estimated cost for a data collection effort that could be completed by December 31, 2020 is \$2,500,000.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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