

Theresa Utton-Jerman

Subject: Written Testimony on FY21 Budget Proposal from a CUD Governing Board Member

To the Members of House Committees on Appropriations and Energy & Technology; Senate Committees on Appropriations and Finance,

I am writing on behalf of the newly formed Lamoille FiberNet Communications Unified District (LFCUD), which covers the towns of Belvidere, Cambridge, Eden, Hyde Park, Johnson, Morristown, and Waterville.

As the LFCUD mobilizes with a sense of urgency, we strongly support Governor Scott's \$2 million appropriation to support the CUD operational expenses.

This funding will support CUDs so they will have the local operational capacity they need to make significant on the ground contributions to their communities' broadband expansion.

Without the funding our capacity to serve our local communities will be severely constrained.

Furthermore, this funding will make sure CUDs can successfully expedite a common mission, which is to provide high speed affordable broadband to underserved Vermonters.

In turn providing this broadband expansion, will support the local business economy, community development, education, and healthcare.

We urge the committees to support this appropriation.

Sincerely,

Sam Lotto

Lamoille Fiber Communications Unified District – Governing Board Member,
Chair – LFCUD - Technology Committee