



Talking Points

Rural Broadband in Virginia

- Broadband should be available to every Virginian and business. Why is it important? Broadband is crucial for increased health, educational and economic opportunities, as well as for job and business creation and growth. The electrification program in Virginia of the 1930s is now the Broadband deployment of the 21st Century.
- For example, health clinics and hospitals lack specialty doctors. Imagine if broadband were available, local docs could rely on broadband applications to share patient information with specialty docs in the cities. X-rays, CT and MRI scans and test results would be shared amongst the different medical professionals and patients' diagnosis and treatment plans would be implemented more quickly. Another benefit would be for remotely-located patients to communicate and be examined by their local doctor through their computer or TV without leaving their home.
- Education needs broadband. We want our children to be able to compete in the 21st Century. Those jobs require advanced computer skills that are provided through broadband applications.
- How about small business? Don't you want to extend your reach to new customers and increase your profits? Hire more people? Access to broadband is the first step toward prosperity.
- We, who live in rural Virginia, should have the right and independence to create our own broadband solutions. Isn't it time for local communities to create their own solutions for broadband when state legislature ignores their needs?
- However, recently the Republican House of Delegates rejected any attempt to expand the role of locally-controlled and -managed broadband authorities. Republicans talk about jobs and economic growth, yet they push back any opportunity to establish broadband usage.
- Republicans will also flaunt that local broadband authorities are inefficient and can be corrupt. But today look to the example of Mid-Atlantic Broadband Authority with net earnings of \$2.3M.
- If it works in southern Virginia with private-public broadband partnerships, why can't it work in southwestern or eastern Virginia?