

From: [Trish Creach Camdenton Chamber of Commerce](#)
To: [BOCrfc2015](#)
Cc: Linda.conner@loclg.org; "Andy Thomason"
Subject: Broadband Expansion - Public Comment
Date: Friday, June 05, 2015 3:43:42 PM

June 5, 2015

National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4626
Attn: Broadband Opportunity Council
Washington, DC 20230

Re: Request for Comment- Broadband Expansion

To Whom it may Concern:

Thanks to the State of Missouri's recent effort to study and expand broadband adoption, *MoBroadbandNow*, the Lake of the Ozarks region has a firm understanding of the challenges faced by local residents wanting to adopt broadband in their home or business. Central Missouri is reasonably well served by the 'middle mile' provider. The region's major challenges lie in affordably connecting neighborhoods to existing 'middle mile' backbone.

While Broadband access is an extremely complex issue, costs associated with 'last mile' service continually come up in community conversations. Rural broadband can be cost prohibitive even with a 'middle mile' fiber backbone located at the entrance of a rural neighborhood. The equipment costs and high costs of long-term contracts for middle mile internet service prevented a community of 20 homes from gaining access to broadband internet.

There is a need to find an infrastructure financing mechanism for interested and willing rural communities. Future funding opportunities should incorporate a mechanism for rural subdivisions to apply for infrastructure funding and include adequate time to organize the community.

Currently grant funding for infrastructure is only available where there is no service available. However, cell phone LTE service and satellite service is considered coverage in an area. While this may be technically covered it is neither an affordable option nor an adequate coverage for many households within our rural communities.

Redefining internet coverage, affordable service and what is considered high speed internet today all need to be a part of the discussion as we try to bring Broadband to rural

Missouri. Using the terms and guidelines currently in place is not solving the problems that we continue to face in rural areas that want Broadband but have no clear way to secure the desperately needed infrastructure to increase the access to Broadband in these rural communities.

The Camdenton Area Chamber of Commerce thanks the Broadband Opportunity Council for the opportunity to comment on an issue that is so important to Camdenton and the Lake of the Ozarks region. The future economy of our community is dependent on the continued expansion of broadband access.

Sincerely,

Trish Creach, Executive Director, IOM

Camdenton Area Chamber of Commerce

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