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From the desk of Rouzbeh



Dr. Rouzbeh Yassini

“Rural telecom cooperatives are now using the same technologies they employed decades ago to get fiber into small rural areas.”

Hello,

My attention in this last month of summer is drawn to health and broadband in rural America, where our fall agricultural harvest is about to begin. One particular item that caught my interest was a new mapping service from the Federal Communications Commission that tracks broadband access and health.

Health and Broadband

The FCC’s Connect2Health Task Force has launched the *Mapping Broadband Health in America* **TOOL**. It’s a web-based mapping app that will enable data-driven decision making where broadband and health link. Two key findings reported by the FCC:

- The state of health is vastly different in connected municipalities vs. isolated communities.
- There is a significant gap in health and broadband between rural and urban counties.

Old Technology to Get Broadband to Farms

Separately there was an **ARTICLE** in *The New York Times* that rural telecom cooperatives are now using the same technologies they employed decades ago to get fiber into small rural areas. That expansion of broadband is great news, but was quickly followed by some bad news.

More on Rural Broadband

To expand the picture on rural broadband, I offer the following links:

- A report on Massachusetts state government’s **SUPPORT** of a service provider to build rural broadband.
- An alternative way to extend broadband — building broadband **INFRASTRUCTURE** for rural areas without federal and state dollars.
- A focus on positive TVWS deployment **OVERSEAS**.
- A very good **ANALYSIS** of extended area unlicensed spectrum usage (TVWS) that highlights some of the problems BCoE said would need to be solved. Less rosy than most articles, but realistic.

Municipal Broadband Loses in Court

The **FCC LOST** in federal court over the issue of whether state laws may restrict municipalities from owning and operating broadband networks. The United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit backed laws in Tennessee and North Carolina that halt the growth of municipal broadband networks. While this decision directly affects only those states, it has raised questions regarding dozens of other similar municipalities trying to extend broadband to unserved areas.

That’s what I have been following. I’d like to hear from you about your interests in expanding affordable broadband.

Rouzbeh

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