

From: [George Dempsey III](#)
To: [BOCrfc2015](#)
Subject: LACK OF RURAL BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS
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3 1/2 years ago a fiberoptic cable was laid in the right of way along the side of US 160, which is less than 5 miles from my home. Yet the only access to the internet is dial-up, my current speed 26.4 kbs, or satellite. The dial-up costs me \$6.95 a month. The satellite plans average \$100 a month plus an investment in equipment and its installation of about \$350. [REDACTED] I know that city and suburban folks typically pay \$30 a month for broadband.

Our farm is over 20 miles from the town that is our mailing address, we actually live in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] We lost our zipcode many years ago. Besides lacking broadband we also have been told by owners of cellphones that only 1 bar is sometimes available, its almost the center of our goat field far from our metal roofed home. This rules out a wireless solution.

The most discouraging thing about this silencing of rural people by pricing us out of the market is that President Obama and Vice President Biden promised access via the Stimulus Bill. Where did the money go? Ripley County, Missouri has to be the second or third poorest county in the state. According to the Sep 2014 report from the University of Missouri Extension; 24.67% of males and 29.63% of females versus 13.68% and 16.21% statewide were in poverty. 72.91% of our students participated in free/reduced lunch program versus 49.87% statewide. If we are not in need of government help who is? I wonder if the President not winning our county in either election is a factor in our being neglected?

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