

From: [Marian Norton](#)
To: [BOCrfc2015](#)
Subject: Comments from rural North Carolina to Broadband Opportunity Council
Date: Friday, June 05, 2015 1:15:46 PM

I will soon have fiber service from a neighboring rural telephone cooperative, so while I have waited over 15 years for a wired service, I can now see things happening as fiber is being buried!

However, there are still many areas of our county where the incumbant providers, CenturyLink and AT&T, are dragging their feet at providing and wired service at all, and in some cases where they offer dsl it is as low as 512K.

The National Broadband Map is so full of misinformation that it has actually deterred deployment of broadband. If you look at the map for my address it shows up to 50 Mbps through CenturyLink (and I don't believe there is any way the copper wire technology can do that!) Years ago when stimulus money was available I could not get the funding for satellite even though we had nothing else available at our address. Attention must be paid to feedback given by those who live at the address. I have reported misinformation over 40 times and it is still in error. Many areas that need service are over reported. Reporting by address would make for better accuracy, as my census block is so large an area that it has two different exchanges with very different service levels. The distrubution of certificates for digital TV boxes was done by address and that conversion seemed to go rather smoothly. Ask rural consumers where they want their funding to go. I would definitely have chosen FTTH, not the DSL CenturyLink installed with CAF.

CenturyLink responded to a neighbor's complaint in a letter to FCC on October 1, 2014, that they had no plans to serve us in 2014 or 2015, then a few days later in a local press release said they would be using Connect America Funds to bring broadband to our area. By that time we already had assurance from the telephone cooperative that they would be bringing us FTTH. Now we have choices fiber or DSL, which is good, but why didn't CenturyLink use those funds where others are still unconnected? It seems so wasteful to spend Connect America Funds on DSL when fiber is being installed.

I know it is difficult to connect with the disconnected, so please listen when you do hear from them!

Yesterday, I went to the closest library, in a small town about 7 miles away and found I could only use the computer for 60 minutes. If I go to the larger library at our county seat, I can use one for 180 minutes a day....why the disparity? I was told that the more rural library has fewer computers to share. Rural areas need to be the focus; urban areas seem to be taken care of.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to leave comments.

Marian Norton



Pittsboro, NC 27312