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Sent: 9/10/2024, 4:08 PM

To: [bead@ntia.gov](mailto:bead@ntia.gov)

Subject: Sawyer County, Wisconsin Broadband public comment

Hi,

I work in information technology, it has been my main career for nearly 30 years. I live in rural Sawyer County. I used to be able to use a wifi hotspot to work remotely back in 2012-2016 or so. I was able to tether off my mobile phone from about 2016 until 2021 and spend extended periods working remotely from Sawyer County. Since Covid, I purchased the family cabin from my parents. My land line was never able to get connected due to no ports available (phone company said to cancel and reconnect only to be told nope). Often my mobile phone has connection issues, and the phone barely works - especially on weekends. I installed satellite wifi back in 2020, speeds have been slowly degrading since. My upload speeds today do not allow me to share my screen via Zoom or Teams and also keep video and/or audio.

In short, it has become very difficult to work from this location, as the service has slowly been degrading over the years due to extra bandwidth from more people, more devices, more data consumption, streaming, and IoT. A lack of access to world class broadband with FTTP is killing rural places like my home. I will be left with no choice but to start working from a different location shortly until data access can be improved. A broadband upgrade is starting to feel like it may never arrive. Sawyer County is supposedly a broadband forward provider, but has no portal, no plan to provide county-wide service, and used ARPA money to slice and dice the county so no provider would ever touch the remaining places due to remote rural nature and lack of people. Sawyer squandered its opportunity to fund broadband for the next 100 years with a best in class service. Northern Wisconsin is falling woefully behind and may never catch up with no plan to connect itself to the world.

Thank you,

Steve Beining