Please accept the following comments on promotion of Broadband.

How can communities and regions incentivize service providers to offer broadband services, either wired or wireless, in rural and remote areas?

I would like to provide comment that in North Missouri the Rural Electric Coops that use existing line systems to run fiber-optic based internet service to customers has provided reliable high speed service without capping data usage. I hear positive comments on these systems from people I interact with around the area through work. The wireless/satellite based services available are expensive due to data caps and the towns with DSL cannot reach rural customers outside of town. Any internet service, regardless of download speed, should not be considered ‘broadband’ if data is capped such that users cannot view video content on the internet without excessive cost. To support the expansion of broadband, I would like to see you somehow support expansion of the fiber-optic based options I described above with uncapped data limits.

What can the federal government do to make it easier for state, local, and tribal governments or organizations to access funding for broadband?

I would like to see access to uncapped high speed internet service by supporting the building of this fiber-optic infrastructure with existing line systems in use by the electric coops already. I do not know the barriers to this, but those who have access to this service seem satisfied. The wireless or satellite based systems are not feasible unless data cap limits can be eliminated. To that end, programs that support those type of fiber-optic based line systems would be beneficial to the area.

Respectfully,

Rob Clarkson, DVM
Laclede, MO
robclarkson@windstream.net