

ATT. Sara J. Clark

I am a resident of East Chestnut Hill Road in Montague, living two doors down from the Town of Leverett, whose state-of-the-art was designed and built by Matrix. The project, regardless of delays, has ultimately been an enormous success.

I find it absolutely appalling that the state would consider investing money in a 20th century technology like copper, particularly when it goes against the strong recommendation of this municipality.

As one of the Montague residents who would be denied internet access under the Comcast proposal because it would require that corporation to provide one or two poles to my home, I am outraged that MBI is recommending extending the cable provider's monopoly even though it would provide service to far fewer homes, with an antiquated technology.

How is it that building the Mss Broadband 123 network to the Montague Center Fire Station could have been considered "an overbuild," and how is it that MBI favors a provider -- against the community's strong suggestion -- that wouldn't even make use of MBI's 123 network?

A sharp contrast would be that Matrix, which would invest in poles to assure that my home and others **WOULD** be served with fiber, would make use of MBI's fiber network, providing an estimated \$500,000 to the MBI's woefully underutilized network over 20 years?

Has there been a deal struck with Comcast to subsidize its monopoly, rather than accede to this community's choice to support economic development with fiber? This is our one chance to get this right, and no time to invest in outmoded cable technology. To do so would be ludicrous.

Rather than "introducing competing service" to a large, unserved part of Montague, MBI is favoring a monopoly that would make a far smaller investment in the community, leaving many homes not only forever without high-speed telecommunication, but permanently undervalued.

I find it preposterous that the state favors this one-sided process, particularly in light of Governor Baker's recent statements that the state should be supporting the buildout of broadband according to the wishes of the communities themselves.

Since the funding of this underserved community's service expansion to exceed MBI's own guidelines set for undeserved communities (rather than Comcast's paltry 94 percent rate with copper) would go in part to provide fiber to a fire station that's an approved FEMA shelter that was negligently bypassed in the middle mile network in the first place, it's obvious to me that the Montague Broadband Committee's recommendation should be reconsidered and endorsed by Mass Broadband Institute.

Yours truly,

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**- Richie Davis**

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