

We attended a meeting at U-Mass last evening and wanted to provide comment concerning the MBI proposal to move forward with Comcast in the town of Montague, MA.
We live on E. Chestnut Hill Rd. in Montague.

Based on the map provided to our town committee by Comcast, we will not have access to their internet service.

Based on the map provided to the town committee by Matrix, we would.

Our choice is obvious.

Other points such as fiber optic advantages (Matrix) vs. wire (Comcast); using the provider (Matrix) recommended after long study by our town vs. MBI's provider (Comcast) are equally important but at this point its not a matter of tech advantage or understanding why MBI wishes to partner with Comcast, (and I don't understand why old tech is selected over new, or greater access to all homes is not preferred over limited access) but rather can we get high speed internet access at all.

If Comcast is the chosen provider, we will be one of the Massachusetts families left behind in the statewide effort to provide high speed internet to all residents. We are not alone. There are 140 residences in town that would also be left without access if Comcast is chosen.

I would suggest that MBI revisit the proposal offered by our town and Matrix, better understand the recommendations made by our town's internet committee and make a decision that serves all residents of our community, not just those that are conveniently more cost effective based on Comcast's rules of who they will and will not serve.

I currently have WildBlue satellite. I don't know what you have for internet but imagine for a moment planning your internet usage around sunny days (at your home and at the ground receiver location for the satellite) or if rainy, having to drive a few miles to go to a place that offers wifi.

Dan and Suzanne Halkyard