Rep. Dingell Staff Meeting
Joint Telecommunications Advisory Committee

Key Points

Focusing broadband funding on incumbent carriers has seen small communities like ours left behind

- For-profit, incumbent carriers spec and build systems to match their systems in larger communities rather than scale equipment to meet local needs
- Our LEC has spent more than $5 million in the past 15 years to put 1980s technology on top of its existing copper lines to deliver decent service in town but terrible service at many down island locations
- Our NTIA grant application contemplates a fully built our FttH system for $15 million; a strategic plan aimed at existing service locations with expandability could be built for about half that according to preliminary bids
- Policy makers should stop chasing failure and fund local communities to build facilities that they control

Bad data drives bad results

- Inaccurate FCC data from carrier submission on Form 477 leaves communities ineligible for grants
- FCC definition of broadband isn't broadband for the future
- Funding decisions should be based on data vetted by local communities, not on carrier submissions based a service available at one location in a broad area

For economic sustainability, fiber is the future

- Symmetric (same speed up and down) is critical for business
- Without it, small communities are left behind
- Fiber is the best option to deliver that service with room for growth

What information can we provide to help you address the issue of broadband access in small, remote communities?