

Improve Wireless, Internet Access, Affordability and Reliability

I relocated from Bedford, NH to Frankestown, NH in 2017. We took for granted our fiber optic high speed internet and reliable cell phone coverage in Bedford. When we got to Frankestown, we discovered that both wireless coverage and internet access were not readily available or reliable. I became a member of the Frankestown Broadband Committee with the goal of increasing internet access throughout our town while taking advantage of federal (our recycled) tax dollars being returned to the State of New Hampshire for this purpose. The Committee is making progress and we expect to secure funds this year to be used to deploy internet access to areas of our town in which it is not currently available.

Wireless is another matter. We have a very, very limited choice of wireless providers in Deering and Frankestown due to lack of towers and Not In My Backyard mentality. This is a statewide problem and it must change. Wireless is a necessity, not a luxury, and I would argue wireless accessibility and reliability are more important than internet access. (Wireless can be used for internet access and frequently remains in service during storms that cause broadband outages.) If we are to successfully recruit businesses to relocate to our state, they must be able to place and receive calls anywhere in our state, not just our most populous cities and towns. I will be leveraging my technology connections to investigate alternatives to our current wireless providers to increase competition and bring costs down as well as increasing availability and reliability.