



**Baldwin Memorial Library**  
**33 Main Street North, P.O. Box 337**  
**Wells River, VT 05081**  
**802-757-2693**  
***librarian@baldwinlibraryvt.org***

April 29, 2018

To the Town of Newbury:

As Library Director for the Baldwin Memorial Library in Wells River, I write in support of the REDInet broadband proposal for Newbury.

Currently, we receive our internet connection from Charter Cable and pay approximately \$80 per month for this service. We have three public-access stations and one staff-only computer. We try to maintain an open wifi connection 24/7 so that people may access that from outside the building even when the library is closed.

We have chronic issues with slow downloads and uploads, and I often hear grumbling from our patrons. We also have problems with the wifi connection kicking off periodically. This happens frequently enough that I now routinely re-boot each time I open the library.

Like all public libraries, our computer users include a high percentage of people with certain disadvantages. Many of them have no internet at home and must come to a public computer to do online job applications, take online classes, or do weekly reporting with Employment Security. A balky computer connection only makes an already stressful experience even worse. We look forward to the opportunity to receive fiber optic broadband service. This would help us meet our responsibility to even out the digital playing field for our public.

Sincerely,

Peggy Hewes,  
Library Director

# ECVEDD

EAST CENTRAL VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

April 10, 2018

Alma Roystan, Chair  
Town of Newbury Select Board  
P.O. Box 126  
Newbury, VT 05051

RE: Newbury REDInet project

Dear Alma,

Please accept this letter of support from East Central Vermont Economic Development District (ECVEDD) for the proposed Newbury REDInet project. The initiative represents serious efforts to develop infrastructure that will directly and immediately support economic and social viability in the town of Newbury and beyond. The lack of dependable high-speed access is a critical issue facing our region and is quite similar to the lack of rural electrification in the 1930s. The towns which were first served by electricity prospered quickly and the ones that didn't experienced difficulty for many years. Today, education, healthcare, business communication and the general welfare of the community are at risk when every household and business are not connected to the Internet with high-speed access; currently, many areas have no service at all and this project will help immensely. Moreover, it may serve as an effective model for other towns to follow.

With respect to seeking state and federal grants to underwrite the project, ECVEDD believes that strong consideration and affirmation should be given to REDInet because it responds to the following strategies expressed in our current CEDS initiative:

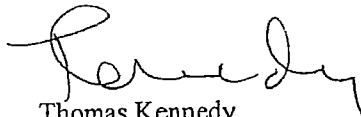
Strategy 2.1: build upon existing capacity for cultivating existing businesses, supporting new entrepreneurial ventures and attracting new businesses.

Strategy 4.2: support municipal efforts to improve/add/remove/update infrastructure.

Strategy 6.2: develop a "great place to live and work" initiative and attract area residents by identifying the qualities that people are looking for in a region.

In closing, please note our frustration that this subject has been publicly debated for so long, with little or no success in many Vermont communities including Newbury. Hopefully their turn will come now.

Respectfully submitted



Thomas Kennedy  
President  
ECVEDD

East Central Vermont Economic Development District  
c/o 128 King Farm Road ~ Woodstock, Vermont 05091



# NEWBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

P.O. Box. 68, Newbury, VT 05051

Telephone: (802) 866-5621



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*Principal: Chance Lindsley*

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in complete support of and with complete gratitude for work going into the Newbury REDInet project. Providing Newbury residents and businesses with low cost, high speed internet would greatly improve our present situation for many reasons.

First of all, as the principal of Newbury Elementary School, accessible internet would greatly improve the equity of public education in our rural town. Not only could all students research from home, work on shared documents, and create on-line strategies to improve our local and global community, but also parents could have access to better support their children as well. Educational equity would rise to improve access for even the poorest of our students rather than allowing the gap between those with and those without to continue festering. Also, to often we struggle with communication between school and home and these struggles would diminish as access to internet increases.

Second, having low cost, high speed internet is a base necessity in today's world for businesses to even consider planting themselves in such a rural community. So many people love the beauty and solitude of rural Vermont but without internet connection, they simply won't stay. My wife and I, both of whose families live far away, struggle out on Scotch Hollow Road because we can't communicate consistently with our loved ones. Our son can't facetime his grandparents because we don't have the speed of internet to make it happen. These struggles make us question the longevity of our residence in a community we otherwise love with all our hearts.

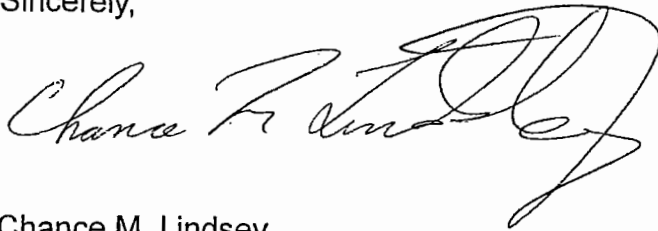
Third, after having a massive heart attack, I see that my health is more dependent on the internet than I previously realized. Everything from researching symptoms to continuously researching the latest healthy practices has become more than a hobby. Having high speed internet in our rural home connects me to cutting edge health practitioners whose science continuously changes with new findings. Imagine the myriad of health struggles throughout Newbury that could be supported with the Newbury REDInet project.

Finally, our tiny New England town is culturally isolated. We do our best to folk-dance, play music, and share our variety as best as we can. However, we're overwhelmingly Anglo-Americans and having access to the internet would help our cultural limitations in a few ways. First, we'd have the means to research surrounding towns and universities for festivals and cultural experiences for ourselves as well as our

children. Second, we'd have the means of researching various cultures on our own time. And finally we'd be able to support each other better through social media, photos, and invites to various events found on the very internet we're hoping to receive.

All of these variables surrounding the possibility of low cost, high speed internet would bring our community together, increase property values, and increase business opportunities. We might even end up building a broader, stronger tax-base to offset education funding. The list doesn't end. Please consider supporting this important endeavor to connect our children, adults, and community to Vermont and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chance M. Lindsey". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a large loop at the end.

Chance M. Lindsey



Four  
Seasons

Sotheby's  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Alma Royston  
Newbury Selectboard  
PO Box 126  
Newbury, VT 05051

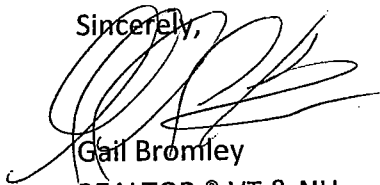
As a resident of Newbury and a real estate agent, I would like to express my strong support for the grant application that is being submitted by Newbury REDInet to fund a feasibility study to bring high-speed fiberoptic broadband technology to Newbury, VT.

If we are going to continue to attract young, educated people to our state, we must be able to provide them with the tools they need to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. High speed internet is an essential tool. When we bring a buyer to a property, the two most frequently asked questions are "Is there cell coverage?" and "What type of internet service is there at the property?" Often if the answer to either or both of the questions is less than enthusiastic, they immediately lose interest in the property.

As more and more people work from home or telecommute at least part of the time, high-speed internet service has become essential. Although people move to Vermont for the great lifestyle and outdoor activities that our beautiful state allows, they must be able to support themselves. If our rural communities are going to continue to be vibrant centers for their residents, these communities must in turn offer those residents the tools they need to support the Vermont lifestyle.

High-speed internet service to rural communities is essential to keeping our communities strong and diversified. I whole heartedly support Newbury's efforts to bring this vital service to our community.

Sincerely,



Gail Bromley  
REALTOR® VT & NH

*"Representing Properties Of Distinction In All Price Ranges"*

103 Route 5 North, Fairlee, VT 05045

March 27, 2018

Alma Royston  
Newbury Selectboard  
PO Box 126  
Newbury, VT 05051

RE: Town of Newbury USDA RBDG Letter of Support

Dear Alma,

The Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) supports your application for the USDA Rural Development Business Grant (RDBG) to further meet Newbury's goal of bringing affordable high-speed internet access to every home and business in Newbury. The need for high speed internet in the TRO Region is vital to individual homeowners and businesses as well as helping the region meet its energy goals and attract younger residents to the area.

As one of our regional plan policies states: "High speed internet, with fiber based systems, is supported throughout the Region."

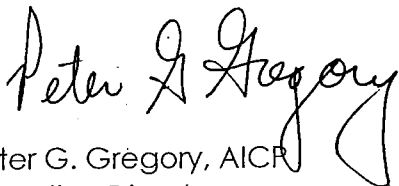
In our 20-year sustainability plan completed in 2015 "East Central Vermont: What We Want," acknowledges "Fast access to data and voice is vital for the operation of businesses large and small, as well as to attract employees to our area. Although telecommuting reduces the number of vehicle trips in the region today, the lack of broadband limits the number of residents who can work from home."

Our 2016-2021 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy includes the following strategy as well: "Support municipal efforts to improve/ add/ remove/ update infrastructure."

The need for high speed internet access throughout our region is well documented as an issue that needs to be addressed; therefore, Newbury's desire to provide fiber optic broadband is important for the sustained vibrancy of the community.

Please let me know if you need anything further.

Sincerely,



Peter G. Gregory, AICP  
Executive Director

William B. Emmons, III, Chair ~ Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director  
128 King Farm Rd. Woodstock, VT 05091 ~ 802-457-3188 ~ [trorc.org](http://trorc.org)