

To: Select Board of the Town of Newfane

From: Jane Douglas, Newfane representative to the Governing board of the Deerfield Valley Communications Union District (DVCUD, dba DVFiber).

DVFiber is working hard to bring high-speed, affordable broadband connection to the citizens of our district, which is Windham County and several adjoining towns. This project begins with creating a network backbone, then connecting individual occupied locations along the network. The Town of Newfane is right in the middle of DVFiber's proposed network.

The Town of Newfane has approximately 1,135 occupied locations. Industry experts estimate that about 10% of homes need help affording the connection costs, which run approximately \$100. That means that roughly 115 households in Newfane will need assistance paying to be connected. We know not all locations will choose to connect to DVFiber, but if at least 40% want our services, that's around 46 homes that will need help covering the cost.

Some connections will be more costly, if the home is more than 400 feet from the pole, or if the connection is under ground. Taking that into consideration, we estimate that \$15,000 would be needed to help those unserved and underserved households in Newfane join DVFiber.

I think giving them access to the world of the Internet fulfills the intent of the ARPA funding the Town of Newfane has received. Online schooling, online banking, online promotion of home businesses, email, social media and more will be available for our most vulnerable citizens, enabling them to join the economic recovery made possible by this 21st century technology.

Therefore, I ask that the Select Board consider assigning \$15,000 to DVFiber, to help cover connection costs for our citizens who would otherwise be unable to afford it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jane Douglas