

MEDA Broadband Committee Meeting

April 19, 2021

2pm

Participants: Steve Simonson, Russ Fletcher, Tracy McIntyre, Charlotte Lauerman, Paul Reichert, Mary Roehr, Mehmet Casey, Allison Corbyn, Brian Obert, and Gloria O'Rourke.

SB297 – Hearing on Wednesday.

- Discussion was held on the current SB297 that will be heard this Wednesday. This committee continues to be in support of it.
- [Link to letter](#) – share this with MEDA membership.
- Hope that having a state broadband coordinator will boost us all in making progress.

State agency call tomorrow; Tracy and Russ will be on the call.

In the chat:

Russ: Time to cut internet cords: T-Mobile, Verizon up their bids to be your next home broadband

“Realistically, even today’s 4G speeds are often orders of magnitude faster than DSL, never mind mid-band 5G,” he wrote in an email. “In other areas, a local cable monopoly will win on speed, but adding an alternative should spur the incumbent to offer a better value proposition.”

<https://matr.net/news/time-to-cut-internet-cords-t-mobile-verizon-up-their-bids-to-be-your-next-home-broadband/>

When broadband monopolies pushed out scrappy local ISPs, we all suffered <https://matr.net/news/when-broadband-monopolies-pushed-out-scrappy-local-isps-we-all-suffered/>

USDA to Host Listening Session to help Expand Broadband in Tribal Communities Under the ReConnect Program – 4/20 – 1:30PM MST – Online <https://matr.net/event/usda-to-host-listening-session-to-help-expand-broadband-in-tribal-communities-under-the-reconnect-program-4-20-130pm-mst-online/>

Next meeting: will be determined by how the hearing on Wednesday goes.