



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GARY HEBL
46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Broadband Expansion Needed in Rural Communities, Even in Dane County

By Rep. Gary Hebl

Governor Walker recently requested that the Wisconsin Legislature pass a bill to increase funding for rural broadband by more than 35 million dollars. I agree with the Governor's push for more rural funding- in this day and age, expanding broadband to rural areas is crucial, especially for those that run small businesses from home or use internet for educational purposes. However, I also want to make sure that the funding goes to all areas of the state that need it.

When thinking about rural areas that need better access to broadband, most people probably think of isolated areas, such as those in Northern Wisconsin. But it may come as a surprise to many to learn that we have areas right here in Dane County that still do not have broadband access. Some of my constituents are as close as 10-12 miles from the State Capitol, yet are unable to access high speed internet. This forces people to resort to other, more costly, measures such as using their cell phone as a hot spot, which can rack up data usage charges quickly.

It is a real concern for rural citizens in the 46th District. I received a phone call from a constituent who told me that they have to send their child to a school district that is twice as far away as their current district, because the closer school district utilizes more internet-based education tools. They simply cannot do it without access to broadband internet.

We absolutely should be making efforts to bring high speed internet to remote areas of the state, and I applaud the governor's call for more broadband funding. I will fight to make sure that the money is applied to rural communities throughout the state, including local communities in the 46th District.

Rep. Gary Hebl represents the 46th Assembly District, which includes the cities of Sun Prairie and Stoughton, the village of Cottage Grove, and the townships of Cottage Grove, Dunkirk, Pleasant Springs, and Sun Prairie.

Contact Rep. Hebl with any questions or concerns you may have at (608) 266-7678 or via email at Rep.Hebl@legis.wi.gov.

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