



In Their Own Words

How Will Broadband Impact the Day-to-Day Lives of Missourians

Capacity, choice and speed are some of the obvious benefits of expanded broadband. What may not be as obvious is the potential that comes about when technology opens that door to opportunity. It is safe to say the availability of a fiber optic network would touch some, if not many aspects of our citizens' lives. The following testimonials are just a few expressions of the potential impact.

Without access to broadband networks our community will not attract new industry and create technology-based jobs. For protection of our communities we need this access to provide essential services from our police, fire protections, local governments, hospitals, libraries and schools.

— City of Laurie

Do you know how frustrating it is to run two businesses and do homework with dial-up internet. It's almost impossible.

— Gary and Beverly Wilmesher, Co-Mo members

The lack of broadband coverage to key sectors of our County impedes our ability to attract, retain, and grow the personal and professional lives of our citizens.

— Benton County Development Corporation

This new service would also give us the opportunity to have multiple computers accessing the internet...{currently} only one of us can complete our assignments at one time.

— Brian Paul, Co-Mo member

It would also allow us to improve marketing capabilities, and ultimately provide means of growth in the company.

— Burgers' Smokehouse

The proposed network would provide an economic lifeline to Cooper County.

— Cooper County Commission (signed by all commissioners)

Current limitations include the ability to only test 6 people at a time for proposed online state standardized testing.

— Morgan County R-II Public School District





Although online learning is indeed to be done at a student's home (at least not on a campus), a number of students who live in areas in Central Missouri that do not currently have connections...or reliable connections...at their homes, actually travel back to the campus in order to take their online classes in one of our computer labs!

— Marianne Inman, Ph.D.,
President of Central Methodist University

We have had visitors and residents complain about the limited availability of high speed internet, and when they can find limited locations that have high speed internet, the cost is usually prohibitive. Some of the visitors would like to move here full time—but cannot make that commitment due to the high-speed access they require for work.

— Robert Hoff, VP and Branch Manager,
Central Bank of the Lake of the Ozarks

Dialup speed does not allow me to participate in college online class discussions and other college course requirements. I must travel 40 miles, one way, to campus on my own time to utilize their high speed internet connection.

— John Chapman, Co-Mo member

In my retirement plans, were options for both my wife and myself to work remotely, as consultants...unfortunately, our discovery that DSL or cable internet access was not available, nor was it even somewhere on the horizon, left us with little hope that our dream of ongoing work could be accomplished...As a result of all this, we have changed our plans and have retired without the additional financial help that we had hoped for.

— Barry Bezenek, Co-Mo member

Having limited high speed access in our rural areas greatly limits our ability to fulfill our mission of a land-grant institution of serving all Missouri residents, from all corners of the state. Providing access to the fiber network from our homes will open new doors and create unknown opportunities for thousands of potential learners that have never had the opportunity to attend post-secondary institutions or who have started and had to quit for various reasons.

— Director of eLearning, University of Missouri

In their Own Words is courtesy of Co-Mo Electric Cooperative, Inc.
These comments originate from Co-Mo customers, but their comments reflect the sentiments of many citizens across the State of Missouri.