

From: [Kate M. McGuinness](#)
To: [Secretary, Board](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Docket No. CM20030211
Date: Monday, June 29, 2020 8:02:37 PM

Dear BPU Commissioners:

I am writing to request that you do not approve the Altice/ Service Electric acquisition in its current form.

As a resident of Warren County's Knowlton Township, I have painful, first-hand knowledge of living with extremely slow broadband and no competitive options. Current circumstances created by COVID-19 have exacerbated the challenges of living on the negative side of the digital divide - virtual schooling was highly problematic for our two high schoolers and operating my small business was impossible as it would have required live streaming.

CenturyLink, our local phone provider, has clearly abandoned any plans for upgrades in service to our area. Speed tests in our home regularly show speeds under minimum broadband speed (at the moment of this email we had 1.79 download and 0.39 upload). At our home, we have spotty cell phone service so creating a hot spot is not an option. Satellite broadband is unreliable here and often comparable to CenturyLink. Access to cable internet is critical.

Please help small, rural, disregarded communities like Knowlton have a seat at the table. Require that any sale contain specific, measurable extension of their lines to address our high speed desert.

It is unknown what schooling or work will look like in the coming months or longer. Access to basic Internet speeds are critical for our children and community.

Thank you for your consideration,
Kate Murphy McGuinness