

Rep. Edming: Backs broadband expansion bill

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MADISON - Today, Representative James Edming (R-Glen Flora) backed legislation that will increase investment in broadband expansion efforts in underserved areas of Wisconsin. [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 123](#) provides \$15.5 million for the broadband expansion grant program and sets guidelines for the program to ensure that funding is going to the areas with the highest need.

“No matter where I go around the 87th Assembly District, one of the issues I hear about most is the need for improved high-speed internet access,” said Rep. Edming. “In today’s world, reliable high-speed internet access is a necessity for education, healthcare, and business. The lack of high-speed internet access in rural Wisconsin not only affects the people in those areas but the State of Wisconsin as a whole by limiting economic growth.”

AB 123 is a part of a package of legislation brought forward by the Rural Wisconsin Initiative (RWI). The RWI is a group of legislators committed to improving access to healthcare, education, technology, and workforce development in rural Wisconsin.

“I am a proud supporter of AB 123 and am pleased to see this bill move forward in the legislative process,” said Rep. Edming. “This bill is another step towards meeting a critical need in rural Wisconsin.”

AB 123 passed the State Assembly with a unanimous 98-0 vote and now moves to the State Senate for further consideration.