



LOREN OLDENBURG

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 96th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Oldenburg Works to Help Expand Broadband Access in Rural Areas

MADISON - Rep. Oldenburg (Viroqua) has co-sponsored [Assembly bill 344](#). This bill will allow telephone companies to be exempt from tax on property that is used to provide broadband internet. Assembly bill 344 had a public hearing in front of the Assembly Committee on Rural Development on September 5th at the Capitol. The bill is supported by the Rural Wisconsin Initiative, an initiative of which Rep. Oldenburg is a member, the Rep. is also a member of the Assembly Committee on Rural Development.

“The hearing on Assembly bill 344 was a great way to learn about the positive impacts this bill is going to have on broadband expansion in rural Wisconsin,” said Rep. Oldenburg. “We are really on track to help grow broadband in rural areas; we have money set aside in the state budget for it, and bills like this that prioritize folks in rural areas.”

Near the end of August the [Federal Communications Commission](#) authorized \$163 million dollars for the expansion of rural broadband over the next decade. Crawford County will receive nearly 10 million dollars in support, and Vernon will receive just over 30 million dollars to help expand their broadband access.

The next step for Assembly bill 344 will be an executive session in the Assembly Committee on Rural Development.

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The 96th Assembly District includes all of Crawford county, most of Vernon county, and a portion of Monroe county. The largest cities within the district are Prairie du Chien and Viroqua.