http://newiprogressive.com/images/stories/S5/internet-apps-s5.jpg

This week Senator Smith writes about the challenges and opportunities for broadband expansion throughout Wisconsin.

BRUNSWICK, WI - It's truly amazing the technological strides we've made in the past century. Many communities in western Wisconsin were among the last in the state to be hooked up with home electric service in the 1930s. The miles of infrastructure needed to reach these homes was significant, and considered not profitable by electric companies at the time.

Today we have similar issues with broadband. Technology is advancing at a rapid pace, and Wisconsin must stay competitive. Access to fast, affordable broadband is critical for parents to work, kids to keep up on their schooling and businesses to thrive. Broadband must be treated as a public utility, like electricity, water and gas.