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It is understood that to any business the bottom line is of utmost importance. That said, the issue of connecting rural Maine to broadband in unserved areas is what the CAF II program is and should be, in spirit and practice.

Starks has not been fully served by any ISP, while surrounding municipalities have in one way or another. As a result, we have become an island of sorts, left without options. FairPoint does serve a small area close to the Starks Town Hall/previous school location, but refuses to complete the connection to the rest of our homes.

As a small town, I have learned that we are not a good candidate for another ISP to serve, primarily because they'd have to deal with an existing partial installation to do so.

Without some leverage from our political representatives and the FCC, I fear we may never get connected.

All this, as FairPoint ?upgrades? current installations in neighboring Anson and Madison, while turning their back on the completely UN-served areas of Starks as reported in today's Morning Sentinel.

CAF II in Maine should be connecting our UN-served rural locations, not -- or at least before -- future-proofing profits.

This is my latest correspondence with FairPoint:

Unfortunately I do not have any news on expansion into Starks. As I mentioned at the meeting in Augusta, it looks like you are in a CAF II eligible area, but the program is a six-year project and I am not sure when (or even if you will be on the list to complete) Starks will make the list. Not all the eligible locations will be completed and the pressure internally is to get the areas done where we get the biggest return on our investment.

I will let you know if something changes.

Jeff

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Your attention to the matter of allocation of funds to connect rural Maine using CAF II funds is urgently requested.