

Sabina Cao

I am currently in a small town called Lisle, in a rural area of upstate New York. Despite the advancement of technology and wide broadband distribution, I am unable to connect to any type of fast Internet or wireless signal, unless I drive 15 minutes to the local Arby's fast-food restaurant to use their Wi-Fi hotspot.

For a nation that promotes and encourages universal access to broadband and the advantages of the Internet, it's strange to think that some areas are still unserved. This should be one of the first issues addressed promptly. It is only fair for all interested to have a say in such public forums and comments as this, which is mainly only offered through the Internet. For unserved areas, the newest technology should be implemented – either dark fiber or wireless capabilities – so that the service will be current and available for the longest amount of time, while advances are being made in the meantime. This implementation will not only connect rural America, but will also create jobs in the deployment of the physical necessities for a connected America.

In regard to digital literacy, computer and Internet education – including privacy issues/differences online, how to email, scams and frauds, etc. – needs to be taught starting in primary school. This will ensure new generations will understand the impacts of Internet. For the older generations, minorities and/or disabled who are not digitally literate, classes should be offered everywhere to educate them, and offer broadband services.