



La Motte Telephone Company Newsletter

www.lamotte-telco.com

August 2011



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the great disconnect

CONNECTIVITY TO ALL

For over 100 years, Iowa's independent telephone companies have provided the necessary infrastructure to keep our state connected. But currently, regulatory policies are in the works that could jeopardize Iowa's access to equitable and fairly priced communication services, as early as 2020. You might know of one of these policies as the National Broadband Plan. We call the issues, "The Great Disconnect."

Simply put, The Great Disconnect refers to the lack of understanding and potential double standard regarding communication services in America and the flawed logic behind it that doesn't make economic sense. Despite claims on proposed policies to improve telecommunication service, they set a double standard for service-permitting broadband speeds in rural areas up to 25 times slower than more populated markets— it tears apart the existing network with counterproductive provisions that could put rural Iowa at risk of having no service at all.

Proponents of the National Broadband Plan (NBP) want you to think it will be good for rural Iowa and that ongoing investment or support is no longer required. In other words, they feel the job is done in many parts of rural Iowa. But while the fact remains that over 140 privately owned telecommunication companies have lead the nation in broadband deployment and building robust telecommunication infrastructure— our very existence is at stake now.

NBP is that once it's built, you're done-WRONG! Telecommunications infrastructure could be compared with roads and bridges. It requires ongoing maintenance and upgrades. As Iowans require faster speeds and more bandwidth, it costs companies real money to deliver those services. What the NBP actually proposes as its goal is to also increase broadband speed to 100 Mbps (megabits per second) for 100-million homes...unless these homes (and businesses) are in rural, less-profitable areas. Then the target is downloads of up to 4 Mbps— 25 times slower! How does this make sense for Iowans as we promote our state a a great place to live, work and play?

The Great Disconnect is a rally cry to speak up rural America and demand equal connection for all, just as Congress originally intended. Get informed. Get engaged. Get active in your community. There are a number of proposed regulations and legislation that are still just plans and proposals. Let's make this all better for Iowa consumers. Please visit www.TheGreatDisconnect.org to learn even more.

DIRECTORS CORNER

La Motte Telephone Company Stock

1. What is a telephone company board auction?

The La Motte Telephone Co. board auction is a forum for stockholders to sell their stock in an auction setting run by the board of directors. La Motte Telephone Co. notifies all potential stockholders of the auction by postcard, newsletter and billing notice of the sale. On the day of the sale, the board of directors state how many shares of stock will be sold. The shares are sold in blocks of ten and the highest bidder can take one share, all ten, or anything in between.

2. What does a share of stock cost?

At our last board auction the telephone stock sold between \$125.00 to \$132.50, with the average being \$127.50 per share. The board of directors starts the bidding at \$120.00 and the bidding goes in increments of \$2.50. The initial company bid is subject to change.

3. Who can own telephone stock?

You are eligible to own telephone stock if you reside in the La Motte Telephone Company 773 prefix and have a landline phone.

DON'T FORGET....

August 13– La Motte Fire Department Kickball Tournament

August 18– First Day of School– Bellevue Schools

September 5– Labor Day–OFFICE CLOSED



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