



Media Release

For Immediate Release
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Rep. Shankland Introduces “Better Broadband” Legislation to Support Farmers and Rural Communities

MADISON – Today, Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point), along with several other Democratic legislators, introduced the “Better Broadband” legislative package to invest in rural broadband. Rep. Shankland is a lead author of LRB 4877, legislation to invest \$100 million in state broadband expansion and improve mapping accuracy in order to help the Public Service Commission best allocate broadband expansion grant applications. She also is the lead author of LRB 4874, legislation to prioritize farms when expanding fiber optic broadband lines using state broadband grants.

Rep. Shankland issued the following statement on the legislation:

“It’s past time for rural broadband expansion to be taken seriously after years of lagging behind other states, and I am proud to stand with my colleagues in introducing this much-needed legislation today.”

“Our state needs an accurate broadband expansion roadmap to ensure that we are as efficient as possible, and by providing \$100 million for state broadband expansion grants, we will be helping families all over rural Wisconsin access the Internet for work, education, commerce, and more. By focusing on improving our broadband mapping accuracy, we can ensure the PSC has the information it needs to maximize its reach and work towards connecting every home and business in Wisconsin.”

“We are also prioritizing our farmers with new legislation to incentivize the expansion of fiber optic internet service directly to farms. I frequently hear from folks in rural communities about how important a reliable internet connection is to doing business, and these bills will be transformational for many families across Wisconsin. I encourage my colleagues to sign on as cosponsors and work with us to invest in rural Wisconsin.”

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Copies of LRB 4877 and LRB 4874 are attached