

## Connecting Missouri Online

Did you know that almost half of rural Missourians lack access to broadband internet? Lack of reliable broadband denies people access to top-of-the-line educational resources, important telemedicine healthcare and every day streaming capabilities. This devastating hindrance to progress in our district is why I introduced the Expanding Rural Access to Broadband Act. This bill makes necessary changes to existing Rural Utilities Service (RUS) telecommunications programs, requiring higher speed minimum requirements while incentivizing private investment to ensure rural Americans can thrive in the digital age. Provisions from my bill were recently passed in the House version of the 2018 Farm Bill that is currently being negotiated with the Senate.

Additionally, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently announced that almost \$90 million has been awarded – through its Connect American Fund Phase II Reverse Auction – to expand broadband internet services to areas within Missouri's Fourth District. This FCC money will impact nearly every county in our district and many more Missourians will see funding for broadband internet service come directly to their communities. As one of a few members of Congress who hails from a working farm, I understand the importance of access to high-speed internet for small businesses and those in our rural communities and will continue to support legislation to that end.

I hope you have found this update informative. Many of these initiatives originated with ideas from my constituents, which is why I encourage you to keep in touch and let me know what is on your mind. To stay up to date on how I am working for you here in Washington and in Missouri, please visit my website at [www.hartzler.house.gov](http://www.hartzler.house.gov) and sign up for my newsletter. You may also follow and connect with me on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

It is a true privilege to represent you in Congress.

Sincerely,



Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress