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**WIREDWEST RELEASES ANALYSIS SHOWING SIGNIFICANT COST ADVANTAGE OF A REGIONAL FIBER NETWORK OVER STAND-ALONE TOWN NETWORKS**

**NORTHAMPTON, MA** As part of WiredWest's ongoing, multi-year development of fact-based evidence for use in business model decision-making, a new analysis, complete with online app for use by towns, is now available [here](#).

The data-driven analysis uses known capital cost data from the Leverett broadband project, and operational cost estimates from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute to compare building and operating fiber-optic networks in individual western Massachusetts towns vs. towns jointly building and operating a fiber-optic network through a regional cooperative.

*"The results of this analysis are exceptionally compelling and show two important things," said Tim Newman, Spokesperson for WiredWest, "first, that monthly fees for subscribers in towns belonging to a regional network will be far lower than if they resided in towns operating stand-alone networks. And second, the analysis shows that smaller, less affluent towns can still afford to build long-term fiber broadband infrastructure instead of low bandwidth, wireless stopgaps."*

WiredWest representatives from smaller towns are buoyed by these results. Bob Labrie, WiredWest delegate from Goshen observed, *"The financial savings of operating jointly not only mean that a small town like Goshen is able to participate in the 21<sup>st</sup> century digital economy, but also that services are affordable for our townspeople."*

WiredWest is a regional municipal broadband cooperative formed in 2011 by unserved towns in western Massachusetts, with the goal of delivering affordable, ubiquitous, high capacity broadband service to its member towns. WiredWest operates under [M.G.L. Chapter 164 Section 47c](#), an innovative statute that enables the financing, construction and operation of electric and / or telecommunications systems by groups of municipalities. Cooperatives have been integral to building infrastructure in rural America for over 100 years, benefitting from cost sharing and resource pooling to bring critical services to unserved communities.

The release of this regionalization analysis follows closely on the heels of the [Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard's comprehensive case study of WiredWest](#) that came to similar conclusions on the benefits of towns acting jointly to bring modern broadband to rural areas.

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