



# Broadband Legislation Must Remain Top Priority

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*Connect Iowa and Members of STEM Broadband Committee Express Disappointment in Failure to Pass HF2472*

**Des Moines, IA** – Connect Iowa and members of the STEM Advisory Council Broadband Committee have expressed disappointment in the legislature’s failure to pass HF2472 on Friday. Connect Iowa is supportive of the broadband policy recommendations that were released as part of the Governor’s [Connect Every Iowan](#) initiative and expected this legislation to pass with bi-partisan support.

“We are disappointed that the legislature has not yet been able to reach a consensus on this important piece of legislation. Broadband access is a critical facet of our economy and one that we believe must remain a top legislative priority,” said Amy Kuhlert, Connect Iowa state program manager. “We encourage the Senate to take leadership on this critical issue and the House to reconsider implementing the broadband policy recommendations that the Governor’s STEM Broadband Committee proposed.”

“Iowa is competing not only in the United States, but also globally. Jobs, economic survival, and the quality of life are at stake. The heart of the issue in determining the vitality of Iowa for the next 20 years is broadband Internet access,” said John C. Carver, Howard-Winneshiek superintendent of schools and co-chair of the STEM Advisory Council’s Broadband Committee. “It is discouraging that our elected officials to this point have been unable to reach consensus and move broadband access forward in Iowa.”

The report released by the STEM Advisory Council’s Broadband Committee in December cites Connect Iowa’s latest broadband availability assessment to stress the importance of meaningful broadband legislation: “broadband availability data from Connect Iowa indicates that, while over 98% of Iowa households can access broadband at its most basic speed (768 Kbps download/200 Kbps upload), statewide availability begins to sharply decrease at 6 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload (with only 82% of Iowans able to access broadband at these speeds). And only 47% of Iowans can access broadband at speeds of 50 Mbps or greater.”

To get more information on the broadband access, adoption, and use in Iowa go to Connect Iowa's [website](#). Connect Iowa maintains broadband availability data about current access levels and speeds. That analysis can be accessed on the [planning page](#) or by exploring the [maps](#).

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**About Connect Iowa:** Connect Iowa is a subsidiary of Connected Nation and operates as a nonprofit in the state of Iowa to promote broadband access, adoption, and use. The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) is leading the initiative to increase broadband Internet access throughout rural Iowa. Connect Iowa was commissioned by the state to work with all broadband providers in Iowa to create detailed maps of broadband coverage and develop a statewide plan for the deployment and adoption of broadband. For more information visit: [www.connectiowa.org](http://www.connectiowa.org).

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