

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

History is a wonderful teacher. In 1829, Boston's Tremont House became the first public building in the United States to feature indoor running water. In the 1920's, only 1% of U.S. households featured both electricity and water; however, nearly 30% had access to telephones. It wasn't until 1933 that electricity came to rural America due to President Roosevelt's Tennessee Valley Authority. Interestingly, electricity was necessary before fresh water because electric pumps were required to move the water.

With that as background, can you imagine growing up in a house that featured electricity, running water, and a telephone versus a home that was completely disconnected? Can you imagine the opportunity gap of that era?

Now, fast forward over eighty years to today and ask the same questions regarding broadband!

Can you imagine growing up in a house that features broadband internet versus a home that is disconnected? Can you imagine the opportunity gap of this era and the magnitude of this digital divide?

I can think of no better way to ensure South Carolina's global competitiveness than to get our state connected – fast! This work can't take twenty years because we cannot afford to leave generations behind. This is our generation's "fresh water" and time is of the essence!

Join us in our efforts,

Jim Stritzinger

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Connect South Carolina