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📧 Users go public with Internet plea - Roadside signs appeal to Verizon to extend high-speed 'Net service

BY SCOTT MERZBACH STAFF WRITER

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AMHERST - In an effort to draw attention to the lack of high-speed Internet access in Shutesbury and Leverett, signs demanding broadband for those communities have been plastered over several utility boxes in the area.

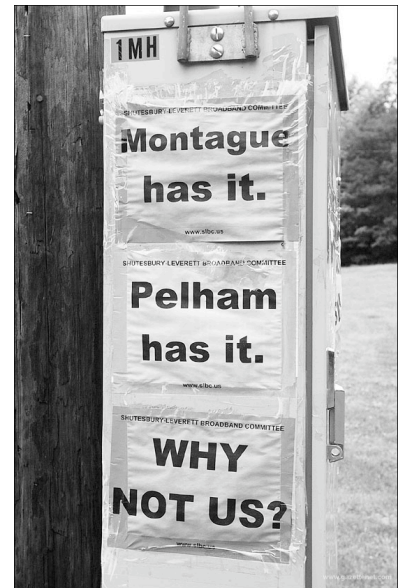
Aron Goldman, chairman of the Shutesbury-Leverett Broadband Committee, said his committee appreciates this support in what appears to be an effort to draw the attention of Verizon, which stores equipment and remote terminals in many of these utility boxes.

"It shows how much grassroots outrage there is that Verizon refuses to even acknowledge the telecom services black hole that Shutesbury and Leverett exist within," Goldman said.

Besides the signs on Market Hill Road in the Cushman section of Amherst, signs have also been placed in other areas, including on Verizon poles on Wendell Road in Shutesbury, on boxes on Cushman Road in Shutesbury and on a platform near the Leverett and Shutesbury town lines near Lake Wyola.

The boards of selectmen in Shutesbury and Leverett both sent a letter to the New York City headquarters of Verizon in April asking for assistance in getting high-speed Internet, DSL or broadband.

"It does not seem right that we remain almost completely unserved by DSL while, in several parts of the state and country, Verizon is already replacing DSL with better technologies (like fiber-to-the-home)," the letter read.



GORDON DANIELS

This sign, attached to a telephone pole on Market Hill Road in Amherst, carries a plea from the Shutesbury-Leverett Broadband Committee to Verizon to bring high-speed Internet service into those towns. Signs on the other side of the box say 'Verizon: Serve us!' and 'B-band PLEASE!'

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