



Are you being heard in Otis?

Posted by WiredWest

The Board of Selectmen of Otis has notified WiredWest that it is withdrawing the Town of Otis from WiredWest to pursue its own solution for last-mile broadband, rather than our regional solution. While a town has every right to choose the course it takes, we believe that this decision will increase the cost of bringing fiber to Otis as well as the risks the Town will face by going it alone. Nor does it necessarily reflect the views or interests of the people of Otis, and in particular those of you in about 425 households who so far have signed up for service from WiredWest.

WiredWest is a cooperative of the towns run by the towns for the benefit of the towns and their citizens. We believe that the people of Otis should have an opportunity to be heard on this matter. You can contact the Board of Selectmen at selectmen.otis@gmail.com. It would be helpful if you copy us at info@wiredwest.com. We will not disclose your identity without your permission.

Regardless of what course Otis pursues, it will be necessary to approve at a town meeting, by a 2/3 vote, a borrowing authorization of \$3.1 million. You should not vote to approve such a borrowing unless you are convinced that the town is pursuing the right solution for broadband, whether on its own, together with the many towns moving forward with WiredWest, or otherwise.

The deposit you made with WiredWest is fully refundable. If you want a refund now, the terms of your signup require that you request it in writing to: WiredWest, Old Courthouse, 99 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060. You may also choose not to request it at this time until this matter is more fully resolved. While town officials in Otis rebuffed our recent efforts to meet with them prior to their withdrawing, WiredWest stands ready to engage with them, with you and with your fellow townspeople to bring broadband to Otis.