



Supervisor

Caleb A. Kershner

Catoctin District



Loudoun County
VIRGINIA



VATI Application Filed, AT&T's Monopole Denied

Dear Catoctin residents,

I have two important updates for you from the Board's October 5 business meeting, and I'd like to tell you about them now, rather than making you wait for my October newsletter.

Loudoun Has Filed Its VATI Broadband Application

I'm pleased to report that the Department of Information Technology (DIT) submitted Loudoun's VATI grant application on September 13. This is a state-funded grant vehicle to help pay for last-mile broadband deployment programs. Securing this grant is another important piece of getting real broadband to Loudoun County. The proposal a partnership with All Points Broadband, Dominion, NOVEC and Loudoun is expected to serve unserved and underserved homes in Loudoun.

To everyone in DIT who worked on this, thank you very much! We'll look forward in hope to seeing a favorable grant award announcement in late December or early January.

To our residents, hold tight, we have a real solution on the way!

You can read the county's full application [here](#).

AT&T's Short Hill Monopole Denied

In an 8-1 vote, the Board [denied AT&T's application](#) to build its monopole on top of Short Hill Mountain. This was a difficult decision to make, but I think it was the correct one.

This was a hard call to make, because this application did offer some real benefits. There's no question that cell coverage is terrible in many parts of western Loudoun, and this tower would have improved cell service in the area, helping our residents, businesses, and emergency responders.

But the bottom line was that putting a monopole right on top of the Short Hill ridgeline would have too much of a permanent visual impact on the area. I studied the photos and the simulations extensively, and drove to Lovettsville to look at the gap from there.

When I put myself in my constituents' shoes, I couldn't support this proposal because of that visual impact. That's [why ultimately I brought the motion to deny it](#), and voted with the rest of the Board to deny this application.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Caleb A. Kershner

*Catoctin District Supervisor
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