



# TOWN OF ENFIELD

168 Enfield Main Rd. Ithaca, NY 14850

[townofenfield.org](http://townofenfield.org)

Town Supervisor (607)592-0131

[supervisor@townofenfield.org](mailto:supervisor@townofenfield.org)

Town Clerk (607)273-8256

[townclerk@townofenfield.org](mailto:townclerk@townofenfield.org)

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April 13, 2022

The Honorable James Gaughran  
Chair, Local Government Committee  
New York State Senate  
Legislative Office Building, Room 848  
Albany, NY 12247

The Honorable Fred Thiele  
Chair, Local Government Committee  
New York Assembly  
Legislative Office Building, Room 837  
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Chairperson Gaughran and Chairperson Thiele,

I am writing on behalf of the Enfield Town Board to request your support for Assembly Bill 6763-A and Senate Bill 594B. This legislation is urgently needed to affirm the right for municipalities to own and operate municipal broadband.

Specifically, the General Municipal Law needs to be amended to allow municipalities to establish, own, and operate broadband and related telecommunications infrastructure either independently or as public-private partnerships, as well as finance the construction of these services with municipal bonds.

As you know, many rural communities lack adequate internet services and are served by a provider using outdated technology that fail to meet current FCC broadband standards. The commercial service fails to reach all residents, creating equity issues due to geography and exorbitant pricing. Commercial providers have failed to adequately expand services to reach all residents. There is a better way – municipal broadband – which is supported by these two bills.

Assembly Bill 6763-A and Senate Bill 594B will provide the legal clarity needed to allow communities to solve the problem of internet availability in the way that works best for them. It will promote healthy competition and will allow New York municipalities to access unprecedented federal funding. Without this legislation municipalities cannot act. Municipal bond counsels and attorneys are hesitant to endorse municipal broadband due to its ambiguous status in state law. This legislation removes any ambiguity.

I thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Redmond  
Supervisor  
Town of Enfield

Cc: The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Majority Leader, New York State Senate  
The Honorable Carl E. Heastie, Speaker, New York State Assembly  
The Honorable Rachel May, Member, New York State Senate  
The Honorable Anna R. Kelles, Member, New York State Assembly