

THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE
CLOSING IN ON BROADBAND

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Editorial

The \$25 million broadband initiative Governor Patrick asked legislators to support last week can't come soon enough for Berkshire County. High-speed Internet access, which is lacking in 22 communities according to state Senator Benjamin Downing, would not only bring residents into the 21st century, it would encourage the kinds of small businesses, many of them operated out of homes, that are ideal for attractive communities lacking good roads and infrastructure. The governor believes that this initial investment will leverage private investment from communication companies, and we agree with Senator Downing, who along with the rest of the Berkshire delegation has been advocating expanded broadband access, that the price may have to go up to accommodate underserved as well as unserved communities. The investment will be worth it, as the introduction of tax-paying, job-creating businesses will return that money and more.

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