

## Sen. Brophy and Sonnenberg fight to protect telecom

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

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Two state legislators are calling on Governor Hickenlooper to join them in asking the federal government to suspend funding and construction for EAGLE-Net until the serious concerns about the federal program's threat to jobs in rural Colorado has been addressed.

Senator Greg Brophy, R-Wray, and Representative Jerry Sonnenberg, R-Sterling, sent a letter to the governor's office asking for his assistance in protecting telecom companies in rural Colorado.

"The cherry picking by EAGLE-Net needs to stop," said Brophy. "It is wrong to use taxpayer money to compete with private businesses and co-ops and this cherry picking jeopardizes service and service improvements for the rest of us.

"EAGLE-Net needs accountability, and they need to provide service only where it doesn't already exist."

EAGLE-Net, which was created to provide rural areas with high-speed internet access, has been selectively and aggressively expanding in rural areas at the expense of small rural telecom companies and co-ops.

"We are asking the governor to join us in requesting that the federal government stop the bleeding before it's too late," stated Sonnenberg. "During these challenging economic times we should be working together, not against each other."

Holyoke Enterprise October 25, 2012