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Ralph Northam ([00:00](#)):

I think it's an exciting day and it's a day that exemplifies when people put their politics aside and have the vision to know what is needed for different areas of the Commonwealth, especially for rural Virginia.

Jimmy Carr ([00:14](#)):

Looking at a map of Virginia, circled the Northern Neck, and said, you know what? Here, let's set a new example for how to bridge the digital divide right here in the Northern Neck. And that's what we've done. We have a plan to connect more than a hundred thousand currently unserved locations in Virginia with the highest quality, state-of-the-art fiber to the home broadband that is available today.

Brad Hicks ([00:38](#)):

Northern Neck Electric Cooperative is committed to serving the communities. These communities in the Northern Neck are comprised of farmers, fishermen, waterman, foresters, their families and their children. With broadband, these families will have better access to education, healthcare and the economy.

Ralph Northam ([01:00](#)):

If COVID has taught us anything, it's really talked about the importance of broadband. And just like electrification occurred back in the early 1900s, this is the electrification of 2021.

Ed Baine ([01:14](#)):

So long-term sustainability requires navigating the ever more complex networks that link employment, schooling, commerce and everyday life. The road to security and success has been transformed from a bridle path to an information super highway. We can't expect people to travel that highway with a dial-up modem or an envelope and a postage stamp. So getting broadband in more than 500,000 Virginians who lack it, particularly in more rural areas where lack of access is high is will help sustain those communities. And we know that no business can succeed in a society that is failing. And we know no society can succeed by leaving some communities behind. Strengthening Virginia's community strengthens all of us.