



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Frank A. Barnitz  
16<sup>th</sup> Senate District

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# **Sen. Frank Barnitz Announces High Speed Internet Access for Communities in 16<sup>th</sup> District**

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JEFFERSON CITY – In order to continue efforts to promote technology access to rural Missourians, Sen. Fran Barnitz (D-Lake Spring) today announced that high speed internet services are scheduled to be available to residents in the 16<sup>th</sup> Senate District. Residents in Argyle, Meta, Freeburg, and Vienna are expected to have access to these services by the end of 2008.

“High speed internet access is a lifeline to many of my constituents,” said Sen. Barnitz. “I am pleased to announce that residents living in smaller communities will finally have the technology that has otherwise only been available in higher population areas.”

Since the passage of Senate Bill 284 during the 2007 legislative session, cable and telecommunications companies are allowed to receive statewide licenses to provide cable service. Previously, cable providers and telephone companies looking to enter the cable market had to establish franchise agreements with local governments in order to provide service. The bill allowed for greater competition and better prices for Missouri customers.

AT&T Missouri announced it plans to invest \$335 million to bring video services and high speed internet to Missouri, which will include adding broadband technology to 42 central offices including Argyle, Meta, Freeburg, and Vienna.

“I will continue to support legislation that will promote new technology in our state,” said Sen. Barnitz. “It is vitally important that rural Missouri not be left behind.”

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