

September 21, 2021

SAVE THE DATE!!!
BCAP 32nd Annual Cable Academy
April 27-28, 2022

Broadband Breakfast

Blue Ridge says it will replace coax with fiber

Blue Ridge Communications announced last week that it plans to replace all 8,000 miles of network in Pennsylvania with fiber-to-the-home within a five-year window. "We will go as fast as our vendors allow us," Blue Ridge vice president of operations Mark Masenheimer said [in an interview with Fierce Telecom](#). Blue Ridge Communications currently serves 250,000 residences in Pennsylvania with a combination of fiber and coaxial cable. This push for fiber comes at a time of many national and state efforts—led primarily by Democrats and fiber advocates—to increase the speed definition of broadband. Though some, like acting FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel [have voiced support for the movement](#), arguing that consumers need more bandwidth to leverage all the services offered to support telehealth, telework, and distance learning, others reject the premise. Technology Policy Institute President Scott Wallsten [told Broadband Breakfast in an interview](#) that the emphasis on symmetrical speeds and higher standards is "nonsense" and is merely an effort to push fiber on customers by setting standards wireless providers simply cannot meet. He said that ultimately this will hurt connectivity efforts and delay those with no internet connect from receiving any internet connection.

Fierce Telecom

Cable cos in pole position to capitalize on infrastructure spending: Wheeler

Former Federal Communications Commission (FCC) chairman Tom Wheeler argued incumbent cable operators are in prime position to scoop up federal broadband funding and have little to fear from potential overbuild activity. Speaking about the looming congressional [infrastructure package](#) during a New Street Research event, Wheeler acknowledged each state will have discretion over how to allocate the broadband funding allotted to them, leaving some uncertainty about what their priorities in terms of speeds and access technology will be. However, he asserted incumbent operators are best positioned to help close the digital divide.

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Associated Press

Lou Barletta signs anti-tax pledge in GOP campaign for PA governor

Lou Barletta, the former U.S. representative, seeking the Republican nomination for governor of Pennsylvania, has signed a pledge from a conservative anti-tax Washington-based group that commits him to oppose tax increases. The pledge, sponsored by Americans for Tax Reform, commits the signer to the state's taxpayers to "oppose and veto any and all efforts to increase taxes." [Barletta](#), of Hazleton, said on Twitter on Friday that he was proud to sign it. He is the first one in a crowded GOP field to do so. Barletta did not return a phone call about it Monday, but his campaign said in a statement that "the last thing Pennsylvanians need is the government taking more of their hard-earned money." "Lou Barletta has always supported lower taxes to help families and employers make their own decisions and that will continue when he's governor," his campaign said.

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Broadband Cable Association
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