

I applaud efforts to make broadband Internet access available in rural areas.

However, the proposed BPL technology has an extremely important issue to resolve: interference to other users of the HF and lower VHF frequencies. There must be safeguards in place to minimize the level of interference. BPL was rejected in other nations due to the interference issue and the existence of other broadband Internet solutions that avoid this problem.

Some of the conditions necessary to ensure that BPL technology does not cause undue interference to the radio bands include:

1. A publicly accessible database for locating BPL system operators
2. A guarantee that the database will be accurately and promptly maintained and severe penalties for failing to do so
3. A guarantee that that interference complaints from other users of the HF and lower VHF spectrum will be resolved promptly and severe enforcement penalties for failing to do so
4. Stricter Part 15 limits on the transmitted power of BPL systems

Proponents of BPL maintain that this technology will offer broadband Internet access to rural areas while causing no more interference than DSL, cable, satellite, fiber, wireless, and other broadband Internet solutions. But it will require unprecedented safeguards to make this happen.