



## Space introduces broadband bill

The Gazette Staff

October 2, 2007

Rep. Zack Space, D-Dover, has introduced new legislation aimed at promoting universal broadband service.

The Connect the Nation Act would provide grants to public-private partnerships that are working with states to make broadband Internet service universal. The program would determine a benchmark of current broadband access, map all broadband resources and build demand for broadband through community outreach and education efforts.

"Innumerable American families and businesses are being left stranded on the side of the information superhighway," Space said.

Space crafted the legislation after the ConnectKentucky program, which allowed the Commonwealth of Kentucky to achieve nearly 100 percent broadband coverage, Space said. Providing the coverage in Ohio, especially in Appalachian areas such as Ross and Pike counties, is important, he said. The bill was supported by Walter McCormick Jr., president and CEO of USTelecom.

"The Space bill is a thoughtful approach that addresses the core challenges for connecting the nation," McCormick said. "Targeting unserved areas, improving technology literacy and increasing computer ownership for consumers and businesses."

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