GOV-T-OWNED BROADBAND NETWORKS (GON)

BAD INTERNET, BAD BUSINESS, BAD IDEA

GONs COST taxpayers A FORTUNE and don’t live up TO THE HYPE

WHY GONs DON’T WORK

PLUNGE LOCALITIES INTO DEBT AND LOSE MONEY

Local governments put taxpayers millions of dollars in debt to finance money losing GONs. A study of 20 GONs nationwide found only two would recover their costs within 60 years — if ever.

TAKING MONEY AWAY FROM WHERE IT’S NEEDED AND LACK TRANSPARENCY

Government officials often shift taxpayer money from other funds to cover GON deficits. Such budget gimmicks mean valuable tax dollars are not spent maintaining roads, water mains, and other critical services.

POOR QUALITY AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

Governments lack experience building quality networks, charge residents who don’t even use the GON, and cannot keep up with advances in technology.

GONs HAVEN’T WORKED FOR OHIO

**1 CITY OF LEBANON**

Lebanon transferred taxpayer dollars for critical government services to cover GON deficits. Despite that questionable funding, the city ended up selling the network to Cincinnati Bell at a loss.

**2 MEDINA COUNTY**

Since building its GON, Medina County Port Authority has tapped into $1.6 million in reserve funds to cover debt payments on its GON.

**3 CITY OF HUDSON**

Hudson City Council increased the city’s debt by another $450k – on top of its existing $3.4 million debt – in a desperate attempt to prop-up its failing GON.

Local governments should focus taxpayer dollars on providing their citizens with safe roads and clean drinking water, and let the private sector worry about providing broadband networks.

THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Citations can be found in The Buckeye Institute’s report Broadband “GON” Wrong: Remembering Why Government-Owned Broadband Networks Are Bad for Taxpayers, by Greg R. Lawson.