I have some important information to share with you all regarding the BEAD (Broadband Equity Access and Deployment) program. The BEAD program was generated by the state as a result of a federal bill that was passed into law known as the "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law". This law is set to provide $550 Billion dollars in funding to help with various areas of concentration that need improvement. One of those areas is Broadband and the lack of Broadband services throughout the country. As you well know our region especially those outside of the City limits have issues with getting internet services. BEAD is responsible for disbursing $42.25 Billion dollars throughout the country.

 Of the $42.45 Billion dollars Michigan is set to receive $1.55 Billion in funding to help improve internet services throughout the state. The State Entity responsible for receiving those funds is referred to as MIHI (Michigan High Speed Internet) office. The issue that the MIHI office is faced with now is, making sure the proper appropriation of funds is released to help areas and communities in need. Through collaboration combined through federal and state efforts, a state map was generated to help identify what is believed as areas labeled as served, underserved, and unserved.

 What has been identified already is inaccurate reporting showing areas as being served. As a result of inaccuracy MIHI has opened up a State Challenge process and needs help from the community to verify the information on the map is correct. How can you help? Challengers are set to visit the map and report any inaccuracies through the portal. Eligible challengers include local units of government, Tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and internet service providers.

Because this impacts Michigan residents and there was not a way for residents to report or challenge the mapping. MIHI partnered with Merit, a non-profit organization that does not service consumers. Now offering a way to make a challenge and have representation. For more information from Merit or to submit a challenge [please click here](https://challenge.merit.edu/?utm_campaign=Moonshot+Newsletter&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=298732796&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--hjHSEocDqe0tXkOT19e4OfeLOUuD6QtEIjsGWcnVkzQnlZfzwwfH4rNzv1kJU-OyNgcol5dC7Sqjyq6ssFbccTPvIrQ&utm_content=298732796&utm_source=hs_email).

