

## **FEATURE – RURAL BROADBAND INITIATIVE TOUTED AS ECONOMIC REMEDY**

**INTRO:** Vice President Joseph Biden and Obama Administration cabinet officials were on the road announcing plans to bring internet broadband service to rural America. The U-S-D-A's Bob Ellison has more. (1:37)

**VICE PRESIDENT JOSEPH BIDEN VISITED ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA TO ANNOUNCE FUNDING TO HELP BRING BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICE TO ALL PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES. ACCOMPANIED BY AGRICULTURE SECRETARY TOM VILSACK AND OTHER OBAMA ADMINISTRATION CABINET MEMBERS, BIDEN SAID BROADBAND SERVICE IS ESSENTIAL TO DOING BUSINESS TODAY.**

Vice President Joseph Biden: Every American who wants access to broadband, high-speed internet deserves it. They should have it. And I might add everyone needs that access. It's like in the Nineteen Thirties saying I can do business without a telephone. Expanding broadband will help in our effort to create jobs, but it's absolutely essential in our effort to make America a competitive economy in the twenty first century.

**THE ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO SPEND FOUR BILLION DOLLARS TO BRING BROADBAND SERVICE TO UN-SERVED AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES. VILSACK AND BIDEN SAY THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES THIS WILL HELP FARMERS DO BUSINESS MORE EFFICIENTLY.**

Tom Vilsack, Agriculture Secretary: They wanted to connect all parts of America to the rest of the world. The capacity to not just market locally but to also market globally.

Biden: With this high speed connectivity, your farmers out here, being able to go online immediately and find out the price to sell your product when it is twenty cents higher as opposed to going through a broker, it's a big deal.

Vilsack: The challenge we have in rural America is to make sure people understand how this is going to connect them to the rest of the World and how it's going to benefit them.

**FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, I'M BOB ELLISON.**