

Kentucky Public Service Commission 211 Sower Blvd Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Kentucky Public Service Commissioners:

I write to you on behalf of my constituents in Boone County who are in desperate need of reliable high-speed broadband. Like the namesake of our county, the people of my district are virtuous, determined, and industrious. But with the COVID-19 pandemic moving so many of their daily activities online, they've been faced with significant barriers to attending school and work. Public Service Commission action can help change that.

To sew up the digital divide in Kentucky, we must remove barriers to expanding broadband infrastructure to unserved rural communities. The current process is arduous and costly for the companies willing and able to invest in the modern infrastructure necessary to bring broadband to residents. That's why the Commission should build on the proposed regulations and introduce greater clarity and fairness to the process by including specific measures that more fairly appropriate pole replacement costs, a burden that now falls disproportionately on broadband providers. In addition, the Commission should address other important issues such as overlashing, which is a common construction practice. Such action should help speed next generation broadband deployment throughout the Commonwealth.

The people of my district are resilient, but they need relief. I hope and trust the PSC will do the right thing and ensure that these bipartisan solutions are implemented.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

State Representative Sal Santoro

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