



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY STATE SENATE

July 30, 2021

Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Commissioners:

It has been my pleasure to represent the people of Kenton County for the past nine years. I have the solemn responsibility of ensuring that their interests are represented across Kentucky's state government. To that end, I ask the Commission to take necessary steps to deliver broadband access to all residents of Kenton County and all Kentuckians.

Specifically, with respect to the current utility pole attachment rules before the Commission, I urge you to take additional steps that will ensure broadband reaches more unserved areas of the state. This involves clarifying and strengthening a policy that instates a more equitable cost-sharing framework between broadband providers and utility pole owners for pole replacement costs. I also hope you will address matters related to overlashing – a construction issue that, once resolved, will further aid in broadband expansion.

Taking actions to cut through these burdensome processes will help our people create jobs, grow small businesses, and generate billions in economic activity in industries from healthcare to agriculture. As a small businessman myself, I want Kentucky's entrepreneurs to have access to every tool they need to thrive and win business for our communities, not least of all in rural areas.

My fellow legislators on both sides of the aisle and many industry and non-profit groups throughout the state unite in their support for removing hurdles to broadband access. Let us seize the momentum and help all Kentuckians get connected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Mearns".

State Senator
23rd District

CM/ka