



Kentucky House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE JIM DUPLESSIS

DISTRICT 25

1422 Sportsman Lake Road
Elizabethtown, KY 42701

July 27, 2021

Kentucky Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 615
211 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615

Dear Commissioners:

As the Public Service Commission considers changes to pole attachment regulations, I write to support the expansion of pole attachments but with a method that minimizes the impact on utility customers' bills.

The need for broadband expansion is unquestioned. With nearly 300,000 Kentuckians currently unserved and lacking access to high-speed internet, the time is now to fix this problem. While we can acknowledge that access to utility poles is critical for broadband providers, how the costs are shared is critical. The cost of replacing and installing poles that may be required for many of these new connections should not fall on the shoulders of utility customers. These costs should be largely supported by those who are using the broadband services and the companies that provide them.

Thankfully, the General Assembly has earmarked \$300 million for Kentucky's Broadband Deployment Fund to assist private sector entities and governmental agencies in the cost of constructing the "last mile" of broadband access across Kentucky. This is in addition to \$150 million granted to telecommunications companies in Kentucky in the most recent round of grants from the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund.

As always, thank you for your thoughtful attention to both the cost of expansion and who should pay for it. I reiterate my support for the expansion of broadband availability in areas that have been long neglected, and thank you for your diligence to balance this important objective without undermining citizens' rights to safe, affordable, and reliable electric service.

Sincerely,

Jim DuPlessis
State Representative
25th District

JD/mcb