



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Representative Jerry T. Miller
36th Legislative District

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Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
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Dear Kentucky Public Service Commissioners,

I write to express my support for quick consideration by the Public Service Commission of its pending utility pole attachment proceeding. As a life-long Kentuckian, this is an issue of significant importance to me. Even before COVID-19, I witnessed how burdensome regulations prevented high-speed broadband deployment. Now, given our new reliance on the internet to learn, work, and connect, the issue is of vital concern to residents of the 36th District—and indeed, across the state. We must do better.

Thousands of children in rural Kentucky communities do not have a high-speed internet connection now necessary to support their online schoolwork. They can't attend class, connect with their teachers and classmates, and most importantly, complete their homework. No child should be unable to get the education they deserve because of an inability to connect to the web efficiently and reliably. They are the future of our state and we must provide them the tools to succeed.

That is why I encourage the PSC to strengthen the utility pole regulations under current consideration to ensure that broadband providers have more reasonable access to build and deploy high-speed broadband services to our unserved communities. Accessing and preparing utility poles consumes a great deal of time and resources in a rural broadband expansion. And because delay and costs represent the most significant barriers to rural broadband deployment, the proposed regulations must introduce greater clarity and fairness to the process by including specific provisions that more fairly apportion pole replacement costs—a burden that now falls disproportionately on broadband providers.

Additionally, the Commission should address other important issues such as the overlapping of broadband service lines, a process that helps expedite deployment.

I look forward to the Commission addressing these issues and establishing the right regulatory environment to help every resident and child of our great commonwealth can get online, as the modern world requires them to do.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry T. Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jerry T. Miller
State Representative
District 36

JTM/pr