

Senator Rick Girdler  
R-District 15  
702 Capital Ave  
Annex Room 209  
Frankfort, KY 40601

To the Kentucky Public Service Commission:

I write to you today to share my support for faster broadband deployment, which is achievable through smart decision making on the pole attachment proceeding that is under consideration at the Kentucky Public Service Commission.

For many years, rural Kentuckians, many of whom I represent in Boyle, Lincoln, and Pulaski counties, have been held back by inadequate broadband infrastructure. By one estimate, Kentucky ranks 40<sup>th</sup> in the nation in broadband access – which must improve significantly if we hope to remain competitive in the modern economy.

The Commission's ongoing pole attachment proceeding has the promise to deliver long overdue change to my constituents and residents across the Bluegrass. We urgently need policies that promote fair cost sharing between broadband providers and pole owners for the replacement of outdated utility poles. Additionally, I urge you to address other related matters in your pending consideration of these important pole attachment issues, including the overlashing of broadband service lines, which is a process that can help expedite deployment.

By knocking down regulatory barriers and streamlining processes related to utility pole use, you as commissioners have a perfect opportunity to benefit the people of our state. Please know that I and many other members of our legislature from both parties stand alongside you as you consider changes to the current regulations. With your help, we can deliver a brighter future for all Kentuckians.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if I can be of service.

Sincerely,

Sen. Rick Girdler