

House Speaker David Osborne- 59th District
Kentucky General Assembly
702 Capital Ave Annex Room 332
Frankfort, KY 40601

Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Blvd
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Public Service Commissioners,

Too many Kentuckians lack what most Americans consider a basic necessity: a reliable high-speed broadband internet connection. For too long, inadequate broadband access has stifled growth and opportunity in unserved communities across the Commonwealth. The General Assembly took an encouraging step forward to address this issue with the passage of House Bill 382 earlier this year, which directed the Public Service Commission to implement pole attachment rules to help facilitate and expedite broadband deployment.

Now, as the Commission takes steps to put these rules into place, I urge you to make further improvements to the utility pole regulations under current consideration so that more unserved communities have the high-speed connectivity necessary for success. Specifically, this means ensuring broadband providers have reasonable, fair access to utility poles that are essential to expanding broadband service. The current process is burdensome, costly and hindering broadband from reaching communities that still lack access. By ensuring more clarity and fairness related to costs associated with utility pole replacements, the process for providers to attach new infrastructure to poles will become quicker and more cost-effective. Additionally, I encourage the Commission to address other critical issues in its upcoming deliberations such as the overlashing of fiber lines, which is a common construction practice that has an important role to play in broadband expansion.

Serving the state of Kentucky is the pride of my life, and throughout my now 16 years in office, I have seen us tackle and overcome many pressing challenges like this one. Broadband access across the state of Kentucky will influence so many things in the future of our state, from economic opportunity to education. We must get it right. I hope you will continue to be vigilant and show outstanding leadership on this issue.

Best regards,

Speaker David Osborne