

Commonwealth of Kentucky

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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SAVANNAH MADDOX
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 61
October 18, 2020

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

RE: Utility Pole Attachment Regulations

Dear Kentucky Public Service Commissioners:

Now, more than ever, it is vital that Kentucky's families and businesses have access to broadband service. Unfortunately, too many in rural Kentucky lack access to basic internet service that would allow students to complete assignments, ensure patients can connect with doctors via telehealth, and connect businesses with their customers. It is critical that we do everything possible to ensure our rural families have broadband access and, like the General Assembly, the Kentucky Public Service Commission can play a role in those efforts.

One of the largest barriers to ensuring rural families and businesses have broadband connections is the process of building service to rural areas, where connecting homes along the "last mile" are often costly and complicated. That's why the PSC's ongoing utility pole attachment proceeding has the potential to help improve the reach of broadband networks to unserved areas.

This proceeding is an opportunity to streamline access to the critical infrastructure needed to expand service to rural areas of Kentucky. This includes effectively addressing pole replacement issues and Make Ready processes, which can enable broadband providers to build-out their networks more efficiently and effectively.

Broadband can provide a major boost for education, economic development and Kentucky's future. Thank you for your consideration of these important issues and I encourage you to put into place policies that will make a real difference across our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Savannah Maddox".

Savannah Maddox
State Representative
61st House District