

Commonwealth of Kentucky

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DAMON THAYER MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

October 16, 2020

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

ATTN:

Mr. Michael J. Schmitt, Chairman
Mr. Kent A. Chandler, Vice Chairman
Ms. Talina R. Mathews, Commissioner

RE: Pole Attachment Regulations

Access to broadband is critically important to ensuring educational and economic opportunities for all Kentuckians. So much of the way that we live, work and interact with friends and family has moved to an online, virtual environment and the Covid-19 pandemic has only accelerated this new reality. Although broadband providers have invested billions of dollars in private-risk capital to ensure the majority of Kentucky's families and businesses have access to the internet, areas of rural Kentucky remain unserved. I'm writing today to encourage the Commission to help address these unserved areas, including many in my Senate District, through the ongoing pole attachment regulation process.

I have heard from families in District 17 who need broadband, but unfortunately, the high cost of expanding infrastructure to these rural areas makes it unfeasible. However, the PSC has an opportunity to address many of the issues that are driving these costs by establishing streamlined regulations that create a fair, equitable approach to attaching to utility poles.

By working together, we can make a real difference by providing broadband access to more Kentuckians. Establishing pole attachment regulations that better facilitate broadband deployment is a key part of that equation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Damon Thayer", written over a large, stylized blue scribble that resembles a signature or initials.

Damon Thayer
Senate Majority Floor Leader