



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

STATE SENATE

October 14, 2020

Kentucky Public Service Commission
211 Sower Boulevard
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602

Dear Commissioners:

For several months now, Americans have been forced to shift daily activities online. But rural areas throughout Kentucky continue to suffer due to lack of access to broadband services that many other Americans have readily available. Now more than ever, high-speed internet is critical for Kentuckians' success.

Residents of District 15 in South Central Kentucky deserve to have access to these resources. That is why I am writing to encourage the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) to keep residents of our rural communities in mind as it works on the current utility pole proceeding. Through this proceeding, we can eliminate a large barrier to connectivity in unserved communities: wooden utility pole access. By improving the process of deploying broadband infrastructure, more homes, businesses, schools, and other vital institutions can enjoy the benefits of efficient, affordable connectivity.

Bridging the digital divide will open vast new opportunities for rural parts of the Commonwealth. I urge the Kentucky PSC to put policies into place that have the potential to change lives for the better as we continue to navigate these uncertain times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rick Girdler".

Rick Girdler
State Senator

RG/kl