

February 10, 2023

Ways and Means Committee
Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Room 131
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB 0551 - Broadband Expansion Incentive Act of 2023 - Support

Dear Delegate Atterbeary:

HB 551 creates a five-year moratorium on the sales and use tax for broadband infrastructure equipment. It also ends state taxation of federal broadband grants, maximizing taxpayer investment in these critical infrastructure projects.

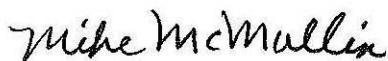
This bill will help to bridge the digital divide and ensure that Maryland businesses and communities are positioned to take advantage of this necessary technology. Maryland employers, schools, community service organizations, and others must increasingly rely on digital access for everyday functions. The challenges posed by the COVID pandemic revealed the difficulties that result from a lack of broadband coverage and access.

As such, it is critical now more than ever that Maryland extend broadband access to everyone. Mostly rural counties, such as Carroll County, will see particular advantage, since many areas of the county are not currently covered by any broadband service. HB 551 will make it more attractive for providers to expand in our area and bring this service to more residents.

This legislation will help to put Maryland at the forefront of economic competitiveness, spur business activity across the state and provide jobs and stability.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of nearly 700 members, supports this bill and therefore requests that you give it a favorable report.

Sincerely,



Mike McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Senator Justin Ready
Delegate April Rose