

March 20, 2018

The Honorable Ryan Smith  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: House Bill 378

Dear Chairman Smith:

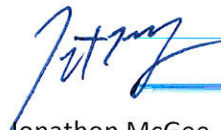
On behalf of the Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association (OCTA) and its members, we appreciate you listening to our concerns with the introduced version of House Bill 378 and making some of the changes that our members have suggested, however, at this point, the OCTA is not supportive of the draft of the bill which was distributed yesterday.

While the bill is certainly improved from its as-introduced form, further changes are necessary before the cable industry can support the legislation.

These changes would include, among others: adding assurances that the providers participating in the program are capable of providing Ohioans internet access under the grants; a robust, up-front process to challenge areas being targeted for state dollars as already being served and not in need of state money; a definition of "unserved areas" eligible for the program as areas where speeds are 10 Mbps down and one Mbps up (10/1) to make sure limited state dollars are focused on areas most in need, and provisions to assure that if electric cooperatives are participating in the program that they cannot charge discriminatory fees to other broadband providers to access their utility poles and conduit for the deployment of network infrastructure. Further, public entities should not be eligible for this money as history is replete with examples of failed public broadband projects or projects that are unable to exist without other subsidization which gives such systems an unfair competitive advantage.

We understand that it is your intent to vote the bill out of committee today, and to move the bill to the House floor; however, we look forward to further consideration being given to these significant issues as this bill progresses.

Very truly yours,



Jonathon McGee  
Executive Director

cc: Rep. Jack Cera  
Members of House Finance Committee  
Sen. Joe Schiavoni  
Sen. John Eklund