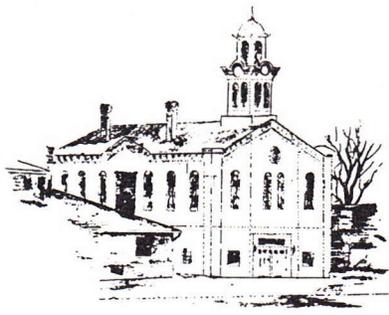


ATHENS CITY COUNCIL  
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*City of Athens*  
ATHENS, OHIO

Christine Knisely  
President of Council

June 4, 2018

Chairman Scott Oelslager  
Ohio State Finance Committee  
Senate Building  
1 Capitol Square, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Oelslager,

I am writing to you today in support of Senate Bill 225 to create the Ohio Broadband Development Grant Program. As I understand this legislation would provide financial support to vital broadband investment and infrastructure expansion in the vast areas of Ohio that remain unserved, particularly the 32-county Appalachian region of Ohio.

I think it is critical for the long-term economic health and vitality of Ohio to have broadband development throughout the state, in every county and township in two key aspects. Broadband access better enables our communities to attract businesses, and equally important it makes better outcomes possible in our educational efforts.

In Athens County we hear of students completing basic school assignments at local restaurants because this is their only viable location for internet access. My two high-school student granddaughters live in a rural section of Fairfield County that is only 38 miles from the Statehouse yet they lack access to high speed internet to download even basic documents.

Broadband access will assist our students to do their very best, and it will likewise serve as a key element to attract the businesses at which these students can become successful employees. I enthusiastically support the passage of SB225 so that all Ohio residents have the opportunity to thrive in today's digital landscape.

Sincerely,

Christine B. Knisely, President  
Athens City Council