
Dear Chairman Oelslager,

c/o: allie.harris@ohiosenate.gov

I am writing you today in support of Senate Bill 225 to create the Ohio Broadband Expansion Grant Program. This legislation would provide last dollar support to encourage vital broadband investment and infrastructure expansion in the vast areas of Ohio that remain unserved.

Many other states have already successfully enacted similar legislation, and I am concerned that Ohio is falling further and further behind.

Mt. Perry Foods, Inc. is a small company in Perry County Ohio that is the 3rd Largest Employer outside of school systems. We currently have 70 employees and will have nearly 120 in peak season.

One of our major concerns is with Broadband (internet service) costs. We have seen dramatic increases over previous years. In 2014, our average was \$600 a month. In 2015, average jumped to \$900 average. In 2016, cost increased to \$1600 a month. This current year our costs are averaging \$3000 - \$3500 a month. We cannot sustain these increases and feel they will only get higher.

Jesse Parkinson (our IT person) has explained in a letter to you as well, how we have been getting our internet the past 10-12 years. With 10 - 12 people using internet daily, we need a cost effective way to get internet.

Broadband is no longer a luxury, it is a necessity. The internet is used for everything from applying for jobs to making appointments with a doctor's office. Ohio's children also need broadband to complete their schoolwork and advance their education. Ohio's businesses need it to grow and compete in a global market.

I enthusiastically support passage of SB225 to ensure that Ohio residents and businesses can not only survive but prosper in the Digital Economy.

Sincerely,