



The Ohio Senate
132nd General Assembly
Finance Committee

June 4th, 2018

RE: Testimony on S.B. 225

Dear Senator Schiavoni and honorable members of The Ohio State Senate Finance Committee,

The Miami Valley Educational Computer Association (MVECA), an information technology center on the Ohio Education Computer Network and a regional council of governments, would like to fully support S.B. 225. This proposed legislation addresses the need for:

1. Greater investment in broadband technology to support the educational and economic development goals of communities throughout underserved regions in Ohio.
2. Incentives to promote more private sector investment in broadband infrastructure in some of the most economically vulnerable regions in our state.
3. Greater opportunities for public sector investment in fiber infrastructure that will support local schools, governments, and communities for decades to come.
4. Opportunities for public sector entities to claim greater control over their futures and interests in the emerging broadband economy, modernization, and overall connectedness to the world.

While MVECA has historically focused its efforts on initiatives that directly benefit public schools, we also must acknowledge the indirect benefit to schools associated with community-wide infrastructure development efforts. While broadband-enabled communities are more likely to feature equitable access for students to critical electronic resources, these communities also tend to feature more robust economic development plans and healthier tax-bases that feature more technologically savvy workforces, home-based businesses, home offices, and technology-based businesses.

The profound technological changes occurring in our economy and society require that all segments of our population are connected to the new broadband economy and the world. We at MVECA believe that legislation such as S.B. 225 is critical to Ohio's modernization efforts. In the future we look forward to seeing the bar raised even higher as we consider the importance of greater upload and download speeds, the continued implementation of smart-grid technologies, and the function of fiber-optic networks as they pertain to local and regional economic development efforts.

Sincerely,

Thor Sage
Executive Director
Miami Valley Educational Computer Association