



June 9, 2020

The Honorable Scott Oelslager and Jamie Callender  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Co-Chairmen Oelslager and Callender and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to you once again on behalf of the Ohio Telecom Association (OTA) and its member companies to express concern over Amendment 2504 to HB 13, which is being considered by the House Finance Committee tomorrow. There are several aspects of this amendment which weaken the bill and distract from its primary purpose to create and fund the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program to bring broadband to underserved areas of Ohio.

We believe Amendment 2504 deserves more thorough discussion. It is unclear how many of the elements of this proposal will operate. For example, our member companies still have several questions about what costs are recoverable and proposed partnerships between middle mile and last mile providers, as well as how expenses can be run through a rate base to recover cost.

As internet service providers operating throughout Ohio, OTA member companies will continue our investment in Ohio's broadband network. We look forward to continuing this discussion over the next few months. We hope for full consideration of this amendment, which should enhance this important program that will provide broadband services for unserved or underserved Ohioans.

We urge your support of HB 13 and pledge to work toward improving the legislation as it makes its way through the process. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Moses  
President  
Ohio Telecom Association

#### **About the OTA**

The Ohio Telecom Association represents all the Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) in Ohio, with companies ranging from serving a few hundred customers to millions of households across Ohio. The OTA also represents two wireless carriers and more than 100 associate members who provide goods and services to the telecommunications industry. OTA member companies contribute more than \$4 billion annually to the state's economy and employ more than 16,000 Ohioans. For nearly a decade, OTA companies have invested more than \$1 billion in Ohio's telecom network infrastructure each year.