

**House Bill 13 Written Proponent Testimony
Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, November 17, 2020**

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Substitute House Bill 13.

The Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber represents nearly 4,000 businesses across Southwest Ohio, Southeast Indiana, and Northern Kentucky. Our work includes a commitment to grow and retain a 21st century workforce and address systemic inequalities that hinder economic growth. Reliable, affordable access to broadband internet is a part of this important work and passage of Substitute House Bill 13 offers a step in the right direction.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for reliable broadband connectivity to ensure that Ohioans can access options for education and work. Additionally, this pandemic has brought to light the stark inequities in access to the means of remote learning and remote work. In 2020, the internet is as important and as essential to our lives as electricity and water were just decades ago.

Substitute House Bill 13 is a critical step in the right direction to ensure all Ohioans are able to participate in the world and economy of 2020. We are grateful to the bill's sponsors and urge passage of this bill.

Please reach out to me at 513.579.3120 or keagan@cincinnati-chamber.com if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued commitment to the success of our region.

Sincerely,



Katie Eagan
Vice President, Government Affairs