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November 30, 2020
Ohio Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee
c/o Chairman Steve Wilson
Via Electronic Submission

Dear Chairman Wilson:

The Dublin Chamber of Commerce serves as the voice of the business and professional community in Dublin Ohio. Today we are writing in support of Ohio House Bill 13— the Residential Broadband Expansion Program. House Bill 13 will help construct last-mile infrastructure needed to get broadband to Ohioans who live in unserved areas of our state. Passage of Ohio House Bill 13 will enable our community to connect remote workers, build strong talent pipelines and continue economic development in the Dublin area.

For over 45 years, the Dublin Chamber has worked to improve the economic climate and foster cooperation among businesses, schools and government for the good of the community. Broadband availability and access is an essential part of improving the economic climate and making critical connections in our community. Though multiple broadband providers serve the City of Dublin, many Dublin Chamber members' employees reside outside the city limits in rural pockets of Delaware, Madison, and Union Counties. Since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, many employers have transitioned to a remote work environment, leaving remote workers in rural communities to struggle with spotty and slow service with decreased productivity. The pandemic has highlighted that reliable high-speed internet is essential in today's workplace. Passing House Bill 13 will help bridge this divide.

Dublin's economy and business community is driven in part by a strong talent pipeline and focus on innovation. Developing this pipeline and encouraging the innovation economy depends on our state equipping all students and job seekers with the skills and credentials they need. Broadband access is a crucial component in delivering remote educational resources to meet this goal. It is essential that the greater Dublin community has access to broadband to build technology based skills and a strong talent pipeline for the future economy.

Economic development in Dublin and greater Ohio depends on reliable broadband access for all Ohioans. Dublin has consistently been a top job creator in Central Ohio. However, coming out of the pandemic, we are faced with the reality that not all residents participating in our business community have access to reliable internet. That puts us at a competitive disadvantage to other states and regions. Our workforce and local economy depend on high-speed internet, and we urge the passage of House Bill 13.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Amorose

Jennifer Amorose
Chief Operating Officer
Dublin Chamber of Commerce