



February 10, 2021

The Honorable Scott Oelslager
House Finance Committee
77 South High Street
13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: House Bill 2 Proponent Letter

Dear Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Plummer, and Ranking Member Crawley:

On behalf of the members of OhioX, we write today to urge passage of House Bill 2 to expand broadband access into unserved and underserved areas of Ohio .

OhioX is a statewide technology and innovation nonprofit partnership that represents those committed to growing Ohio's economy through technology and innovation. Our membership includes Fortune 500 companies, healthcare systems, universities, technology-focused businesses, startups, and more. Collectively, our member organizations employ more than 70,000 Ohioans.

COVID-19 has magnified many systemic issues in our country, including access to the internet. Due to our increasingly digital world, the ability to connect to quality, high-speed internet is vital in our everyday lives in order to live, work, and learn.

Additionally, access to high-speed internet coverage is an important metric by which businesses looking to build or relocate decide on a new location. Further, remote-first workers consider it essential for their jobs. In order to continue to build on the momentum Ohio is gaining as a destination for technology companies and professionals we must address the important issue.

For over a year, members of the House and Senate, along with the Governor's office and leaders from the private sector, have worked towards a compromise solution that helps Ohioans gain access to quality, high-speed internet. It is our hope that this work will soon yield a favorable outcome.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony. OhioX stands ready to assist in efforts to pass House Bill 2.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Spencer Gross", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Spencer Gross
Vice President, Public Policy
OhioX

Cc: Rep. Rick Carfagna
Members of the House Finance Committee