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Ohio Senate Financial Institutions and Technology Committee
House Bill 2
Proponent Testimony
March 9, 2021

Good morning Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman Hottinger, Ranking Member Maharath, and Senate Financial Institutions and Technology Committee members.

The Ohio Pork Council represents approximately 2,500 members, promoting the Ohio pork industry and its products and raising awareness of the industry's challenges. One challenge facing our industry is access to high-speed internet. House Bill 2, sponsored by Representatives Carfagna and Stewart, is a significant step in the right direction to improve access to high-speed internet in Ohio. The Ohio Pork Council submits this written testimony in support of House Bill 2.

The problem of access to high-speed internet existed before the COVID-19 pandemic, and it has only been exacerbated in the last year since the pandemic started. Access to high-speed internet is vital to our members for business operations. The farms of the 21st century are high tech, and high-speed internet is a necessity to compete in today's economy where so much business, from filing paperwork to buying and selling goods, is conducted online. It is also important for telehealth for both the farmers and the animals.

House Bill 13 from the previous General Assembly was a good bill with creating the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program and the Broadband Expansion Authority with a \$20 million appropriation, getting the program started. This legislation significantly improves House Bill 13 by appropriating a total of \$210 million over three fiscal years to improve broadband access in Ohio through a grant program for eligible projects.

Therefore, we ask for you to support and pass House Bill 2. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl Day".

Cheryl Day
Executive Vice President