



Before the SENATE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
Interested Party Written Testimony House Bill 2  
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Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair Hottinger, Ranking Member Maharath and members of the Senate Financial Institutions and Technology Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide Interested Party testimony to House Bill 2.

It is our testimony that HB2 would fall short in providing many Ohio Communities a sustainable broadband infrastructure that they will need to give their community the new look they will need to survive in today's digitally driven economy. The communications infrastructure in many Ohio communities is severely out of date. This is the result of years of national and international carriers redirecting revenue generated from the local network toward the development of infrastructure in financially, more attractive denser metropolitan population centers and into developing cellular technology for mobility.

The exception has been areas served by small independent operating companies. These small operators did not have the opportunity to redirect funds into dense, metropolitan areas and they did not have the opportunity to invest in and develop a larger mobile network. Instead, they reinvested back into the local community through the deployment of fiber to the home networks starting in the early 2000s. One just has to look to rural northwest Ohio for several examples of this.

The need for speed is increasing exponentially with no slow-down in site. The 25/3 federal definition of broadband, if not obsolete when released, is definitely obsolete with multiple generations streaming video, voice and data applications over the Internet. Anchor investors exist throughout Ohio that have a vested interest in building sustainable infrastructure in Ohio communities for future generations. They understand that building a sustainable broadband network is a long-term (annuity type) investment.

These investors are willing to make this investment as long as the operator is investing in a long-term asset (fiber), building it for high reliability (underground to avoid extreme weather conditions), taking control of 70% plus of the cost (underground construction), re-building local support services (hiring local technical and customer care with vocation co-op programs) and establishing themselves as an anchor utility for these communities. This total approach provides a New Look opportunity for many Ohio communities.

As far as implementation of HB2, one area that needs to be addressed is the use of Ohio right-of-ways by facility-based Broadband Providers strictly delivering high reliability (five 9s) Internet only service. Ohio right-of-ways are becoming more congested with underground utilities some of which are severely out dated. It is for this reason Ohio's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity assignment are in need of review. The use of Ohio Right-of-Ways by communications providers should give priority to those deploying technology that will stand the test of time. This means giving precedence to providers of fiber-to-the-home who are blanketing a local community with service that is cost-effective for today (GPON 1G/10G) but has the resources for tomorrow (active 10G/100G+ Ethernet). These providers



should have priority over those continuing to build and maintain copper plants (coax and/or copper pairs) as well as those building fiber lines that bypass residents within and around a population center.

Finally, we understand the immediate need to provide Ohioans with Broadband access that will support not only non-real time applications but also near real-time/real-time applications through low latency. We know our military and private companies can stand-up wireless networks quickly using terrestrial or satellite backhaul. These short-term solutions serve a purpose, but will not work in all areas based on foliage and terrain nor will they sustain service during extreme weather conditions. They will not bring these communities on par with well-developed metropolitan commercial parks and high-end residential neighborhoods. You don't see these communities being exclusively served by wireless and satellite. You also don't see operators or investors willing to stand behind a wireless or satellite deployment as a long-term, annuity type investment. This does not mean that a long-term New Look operator can not support a short-term wireless operator looking to stand-up network quickly to fulfill an immediate need.

We need a comprehensive plan that provides Ohioans what they need today while building an infrastructure capable of meeting those of tomorrow. We urge lawmakers to make funding available to operators and investors providing Ohio Communities with a "New Look" opportunity to accelerate deployment in current communities and reach new communities. This "New Look" is achieved for Ohio communities by funding providers building a communications infrastructure that will stand the test of time through underground fiber, building an anchor communication business within the community, developing and training local work forces, building an operation to take direct control of their high-cost areas and being a positive contributor to the community.

We would like to thank Representatives Rick Carfagna and Brian Stewart for their leadership in energizing the state's long-standing desire to expand broadband access across Ohio. Ohio Gig looks forward to re-building the communications infrastructure of Ohio Communities, One Family, Once Company at a time to allow residents to meet their communication needs and improve their quality of life.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony. I would enjoy the opportunity to give verbal testimony to the committee, and I'm available anytime at 419.296.1750 to answer questions and/or provide additional information to support the committees' initiative.