

TESTIMONY OF MR. CHRISTOPHER TAMARIN
OREGON BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Before the House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use, and Water

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

Chair Clem, Vice-chairs Helm and Post, and members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Christopher Tamarin with the Oregon Business Development Department. I appreciate the opportunity to be here today to provide a brief overview of the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council and to answer questions about the Council with regard to House Bill 3028.

Oregon Broadband Advisory Council (OBAC)

The Oregon Broadband Advisory Council was created in the 2009 Legislative session to help ensure the implementation of statewide broadband strategies, and serves as a statewide forum for the discussion and exploration of broadband telecommunications issues. The mission of the Council is to encourage coordination and collaboration between organizations and economic sectors to leverage the development and utilization of broadband for education, workforce development, government and healthcare, and to promote broadband adoption by citizens and communities. The Council is unfunded.

OBAC Members

The council members are community leaders appointed by the Governor and representing a broad range of sectors and interests in the state. The Council members are:

Cities	Mary Beth Henry – City of Portland
Counties	Commissioner Mike Smith – Sherman County
Telecommunications service providers	Joseph Franell – Eastern Oregon Telecom Wade Holmes – BendBroadband Michael Weidman – LS Networks
Tribes	Lonny Macy – Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Educators	Anne Carloss – Hood River County Schools
Economic development organizations	Dave Sabala – Douglas Electric Cooperative
Public safety agencies	Captain Tom Worthy – Oregon State Police
Healthcare providers	Dr. Miles Ellenby – OHSU
E-Government	Julie Pearson – DAS Strategic Technology Office
Public Utility Commission	Chair Susan Ackerman

There are also seats representing
State House of Representatives
State Senate

Representative Brian Clem
Senator Ted Ferrioli

OBAC Activities

To date, the Council has convened fifty-one times to discuss, deliberate, and report on broadband issues, economics, technologies, and public policy as they relate to the interests of Oregonians.

The Council prepared and submitted *Broadband in Oregon* reports to the Legislative Assembly and the Governor in November of 2010, 2012 and 2014. It also produced the *Gas & Electric Utilities Broadband Deployment Report* and *Broadband Outreach Survey Report* in 2012.

OBAC participated in several State Broadband Data and Development Program federal grant projects administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the Oregon Public Utility Commission www.broadband.oregon.gov, including:

- Oregon Broadband Mapping Project
- 2010 Oregon Broadband Adoption Survey
- Oregon Broadband Outreach and Strategic Planning Project
www.oregonbroadbandplanning.org
- 2014 Oregon Broadband Adoption Survey

OBAC reports, project information, meeting records and materials are posted on the Council website at www.broadband-oregon.org.

Key Broadband Challenges and Opportunities

OBAC believes that access to competitive high-speed broadband telecommunication networks and the Internet has great value for Oregon's institutions, businesses and individuals. The following challenges and opportunities are on OBAC's agenda for 2015.

- **Community Broadband Strategic Planning:** Oregon needs to engage in strategic planning at the local community level for broadband adoption and utilization so that available economic and community development benefits from the use of these technologies may be fully realized.
- **Broadband Access and related IT resources in K-12 Schools:** Oregon needs to address the challenge of statewide broadband access in its K-12 Schools. Information technology and broadband network access are now essential infrastructure for Oregon's K-12 schools. Oregon is currently implementing *Common Core* standards and *Smarter Balanced* online student assessment, just as school administration systems, educational delivery systems, professional development resources and course content are migrating to digital formats.
- **Public Safety:** Oregon needs to continue to plan for a statewide migration to the next generation of public safety communications. Oregon has long been pursuing interoperability in public safety communications systems as has the entire nation. FirstNet, as a national initiative to build a nationwide broadband public safety network supported by federal funds and dedicated radio frequency spectrum, may

provide Oregon with an opportunity to effectively address long standing public safety communications needs and public policy goals.

- **Disaster Recovery Planning:** Oregon needs to re-assess its plans for the significant risks it faces from major subduction zone seismic events and other large-scale disasters. Telecommunications will be key to the state's ability to recover from major tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and other major disasters. The disaster readiness of this infrastructure and the ability of service providers to recover from such events need to be assessed. Provisions for post-event communications and coordination between telecommunications service providers and government emergency management agencies need to be established.
- **Federal Funding:** Oregon needs to fully utilize and leverage the broadband related federal initiatives and funding programs available to help meet its broadband needs.
- **Cyber Security:** The security of data and communications systems is a growing challenge and significant risk exposure for individuals and organizations. Oregon will benefit from an increased focus on and coordination of cyber security education, training and workforce development. OBAC joins the Oregon University System, the Office of the Oregon Attorney General, and local government associations in generating awareness of this issue.

The Council believes that broadband telecommunications continues to grow in importance as an asset and strategic tool available for economic and community development in Oregon.

Thank you for your time this afternoon, and I will do my best to answer any questions.

Christopher Tamarin
Oregon Business Development Department
503 508-0178
christopher.tamarin@oregon.gov