



February 7, 2018

The Honorable David Gomberg, Chair House Committee on Economic Development and Trade
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301
Routed to: hecdt.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

RE: HB 4023-Support

Dear Chair Gomber and Members of the Committee:

The City of Eugene supports the provisions outlined within the -3 and -4 amendments to HB 4023, expanding public broadband access to Oregon communities. This bill aligns directly with the City of Eugene's long-held Telecom Vision and Policies adopted unanimously in 1997, specifically '*All City residents, businesses and public institutions shall have access to the full range of telecommunications services at reasonable, affordable rates.*'

As the presentations and supportive testimony will show, there is an increasing need for reliable and reasonably priced access to broadband as an essential infrastructure for the prosperity of all Oregon communities. Unfortunately, the current model for broadband deployment is resulting in what one County Commissioner has deemed 'digital dustbowls.'

The State of Oregon has a clear strategic vision which the proposed policy changes will assist in delivering. This vision supports local governments, educational institutions, and other public entities in their work to develop innovative delivery models and implementation approaches that leverage the best of the public and private sectors strengths.

The City of Eugene appreciates that within the bill, the State of Oregon does not intend to pre-empt local government rights-of-way use permitting and fees in their buildout. Rather, the model is to partner with local governments and private sector providers to create a strong Public/Private Partnership, much like Eugene has created in our Downtown Fiber District. As you may know, our model provides public ownership of the conduit and dark fiber, with market based competition for the internet service from multiple businesses. This scenario has increased competition among the private entities to deliver broadband services to our growing tech sector and dropped prices—we are seeing monthly 1GB service at less than \$100/month.

Thank you for your work in advancing Oregon's ability to grown our economy and educate our community. Please join the City of Eugene in support of HB 4023.

Sincerely,

Ethan Nelson
Intergovernmental Relations Manager (submitted electronically)