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February 22, 2018

TO: Joint Committee on Information Management and Technology

FR: Craig Honeyman, Legislative Director – League of Oregon Cities

RE: HB 4023-A 13: Broadband Services Advisory Committee

As I understand that the hearing record on HB 4023 may be closed, I am taking the liberty of forwarding this statement to individual committee members as the League of Oregon Cities' "testimony" in support of the -13 amendments to HB 4023 A. By way of general background, the League represents all 241 cities in the state of Oregon.

The League is committed to the proposition that broadband resources and services need to be deployed statewide as quickly, cost-effectively and comprehensively as possible. This legislation, by taking advantage of existing, or soon to be existing opportunities made available through the offices of the Chief Information Officer of Oregon will make significant strides in that direction.

Under current law, municipalities do not have the authority to enter into agreements with the Chief Information Officer to access broadband equipment and services that could literally be running right down main street – through the middle of town. This legislation would provide cities with that authority and thus access to this technology for use at civic centers, libraries, schools, etc., provided such services are deemed necessary, are not currently available and provided by a for-profit entity. To manage this program the state's Chief Information Officer would be charged under the legislation with setting up a rulemaking process involving organizations from industry, government and numerous other entities which have expertise and a stake in the process.

In conclusion it is important to note that cities already have similar authority in this regard. Under ORS 285B.422(c) a city may establish its own broadband/telecommunications entity absent the provision of such service by the private sector. There are numerous examples of this around Oregon. The -13 amendments to HB 4023-A merely extends this same authority to cities allowing them to access existing resources being made available by the Chief Information Officer of Oregon, an authority that apparently the Oregon Department of Justice has opined does not currently exist.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important piece of legislation, and an amendment which will take the next step in extending broadband to all Oregonians – especially those residing in small, rural communities that are currently underserved.