



# INDEPENDENCE

*Oregon's Story Begins Here*

## CITY OF INDEPENDENCE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 11, 2019

Honorable Representatives,

The City of Independence wholeheartedly supports HB 2173 and HB 2184 which create and fund the Oregon Broadband Office. As a rural community we have seen the challenges and rewards that access to broadband offers.

The Oregon Broadband Office can play a pivotal role to solving many of the barriers to entry for rural areas. One example is access to federal funding. The rules for federal funding require an analysis of the current access to broadband in an area. Typically, a rural community would have to rely on FTC maps which greatly overstate the availability of broadband. A community would have to create their own survey to correctly show that areas covered by broadband – which is a barrier that most communities cannot complete technically or financially. The Oregon Broadband Office can cut through those barriers and provide broadband to the residents and agricultural businesses that increasingly need high tech solutions to be successful.

We hope that these bills will sail through the process and make Oregon an even better place to live.

Sincerely,

Mayor John McArdle