



February 21, 2019

House Committee on Revenue
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 2168 Repeals exemption for property of company that builds, maintains and operates projects constituting certain communication services infrastructure.

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Findley, Vice-Chair Marsh and members of the House Committee on Revenue,

I'm writing today to express my strong support for House Bill 2168 which would repeal the property tax exemption for high speed internet service providers.

When the gigabit exemption, as it is commonly called, was originally passed, it provided tax relief for new and currently operating companies in Oregon, largely to entice Google to come to Oregon. Yet the statute did not ensure that the needed infrastructure to improve broadband access to community members actually happened in order to secure the exemption. Although the internet was not developed in a meaningful way, the exemption has cost communities significant revenue from existing companies that sought the exemption without providing the high speed internet.

The pace of change in technology has also made the tax exemption irrelevant as the high speed internet marketplace moves to wireless technology rather than underground cables and fiber to provide service.

Beaverton supports the enhancement of broadband access throughout the State but the success of any incentive must benefit both the recipient and community.

I encourage you to pass HB 2168 out of committee with a do-pass recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denny Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denny Doyle,
Mayor