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Subject: HB 4079 - Testimony in Support
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Following is my testimony, offered in support of HB 4079:

Passage of HB 4079 will build doors for small communities like Maupin. Once those communities are aware that the doors exist, and that behind them are loan and grant dollars that will allow them to bring broadband to their homes and businesses, champions in those communities will go to work.

Those broadband champions will start building relationships that will result in applications qualified to pass through those doors and result in the award of dollars essential to success in attacking the digital divide.

Maupin is an incorporated city in southern Wasco County with a population of less than 500 people. Among them were two mayors, Frank Kay and Lynn Ewing, who became broadband champions. They actively sought out partners, including telecommunications providers, to build a system owned by the city that would be available on an open access basis to any providers that were willing to compete on the basis of quality of service and price. They did it.

They are now helping other rural communities understand how it was done.

You can join in this effort to close the divide and strengthen the economy of rural Oregon by supporting HB 4079.

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