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February 3, 2020

House Committee on Revenue Oregon State Capitol 900 Court Se. NE Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support of House Bill 4079 (2020)

Dear Chair Nathanson and Members of the House Committee on Revenue:

In its last report to the Legislative Assembly, the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council stated that it believes that Oregon's broadband public policy needs to be focused on the future, be more aggressive, be more financially supportive, be more specific, and have a renewed sense of urgency. The council recommended that the state provide funding for new grant, loan and loan guarantee programs for broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas, and for matching funds to leverage federal funding programs. The council recommended that the state should repurpose and redesign the Oregon Universal Service Fund to be sustainable and to improve and subsidize broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas. https://www.oregon4biz.com/Broadband-Office/OBAC/Reports/BroadbandRpt2018.pdf

Please note that the provisions of House Bill 4079 incorporate the recommendations the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tom France

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