

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chair Morgan, Vice-Chair Nguyen, D., and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of HB 2766, which requires the Oregon Broadband Office to study the barriers and opportunities for investment and deployment of wireline and wireless broadband access points. This bill is crucial for ensuring that all Oregonians have access to high-speed broadband, regardless of where they live or work.

The importance of broadband access cannot be overstated in today's digital age. Broadband provides access to education, healthcare, job opportunities, and essential services. However, too many rural and underserved communities in Oregon lack adequate broadband access, making it difficult for residents to participate in the digital economy.

By directing the Oregon Broadband Office to study the barriers to broadband deployment, we can identify the root causes of this disparity and work to find solutions that will help bridge the digital divide. Furthermore, the bill requires the office to submit its findings to the Governor and to interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to economic development, ensuring that the results of this study will be put to good use.

I urge you to support HB 2766 and make sure that all Oregonians have the opportunity to participate in the digital economy. Broadband is a crucial tool for economic growth, and it is our responsibility to ensure that everyone has access to this essential service. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Devon Lawson-McCourt*

Vida, Oregon