



Crown Castle
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Seattle, WA 98109

February 21, 2023

Honorable Janelle Bynum
Economic Development & Small Business Committee
900 Court St. NE H-276
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2766 (Reschke) - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Bynum and members of the Committee,

Crown Castle supports House Bill 2766 - the Broadband Access Point Investment Acceleration Study Act of 2023 - by Representative Reschke. This bill seeks to develop informed and innovative solutions for increasing access to reliable, high-speed broadband services and closing the digital divide by examining persistent barriers to deployment of broadband network infrastructure, including fixed and mobile wireless broadband services, and providing collaboratively-driven recommendations to the Legislature to address these deployment barriers.

More than ever, Oregonians increasingly depend on broadband for distance learning, telehealth, public safety, remote work and accessing vital government services. Oregonians without adequate broadband access are at an inherent disadvantage, deepening disparities in education, health care, workforce development and employment opportunities.

Last year the Governor, Legislature and Federal Government made significant investments to expand broadband infrastructure in the state and the private sector is continually investing billions to expand and improve broadband service to residents throughout Oregon. Unfortunately, these dollars often take too long to reach communities in the form of high-speed internet service because of bureaucratic delays at the local level. Roadblocks to deploying broadband infrastructure-both wireless and wireline-persist across the State, including excessive power and street restoration costs and unnecessary and overly complex regulatory hurdles and permitting delays. Reducing these costs and delays will streamline broadband deployment throughout Oregon, and most urgently in underserved communities.

HB 2766 is an important piece of legislation that seeks to examine these roadblocks via a collaborative stakeholder process to provide policymakers with the required information to adopt reasonable, common-sense reforms to expedite broadband deployment.

Crown Castle is the largest shared telecommunications infrastructure provider in the nation. In Oregon, we operate and maintain a portfolio of communications facilities, fiber and small wireless facilities

located throughout the state - facilities that Oregonians rely on for everyday connectivity. At this time when telecommunications providers are stepping up to partner with Oregon to ensure broadband deployment, HB 2766 will provide recommendations on how to accelerate the deployment of broadband access points in the state.

For these reasons, Crown Castle supports HB 2766 and respectfully requests your "Aye" vote.

Sincerely,

Kathy Putt

Kathy Putt
Government Affairs
Crown Castle