



ALEX CUYLER

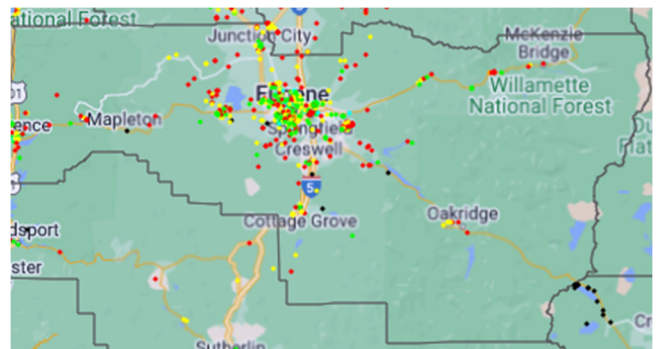
Intergovernmental Relations Manager
Alex.Cuyler@lanecountyor.gov

DATE: February 21, 2023
TO: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business
FROM: Alex Cuyler, Lane County Intergovernmental Relations Manager
RE: HB 3201, relating to broadband

Dear Chair Bynum and Members of the Committee:

Lane County would like to offer its full support for HB 3201 which establishes key components to support broadband access, affordability, and adoption. Oregon is at risk of losing the rare federal investment in broadband networks across the US. This is due to current restrictions and mismatches in Oregon's definition of unserved and underserved regions. This bill is essential to ensuring that Oregon does not lose out on Federal funding.

Lane County mapping shows that we have significant geography that does not have adequate bandwidth, specifically in our rural and mountainous areas. HB 3201 will help Lane County achieve its vision of maximizing funding for fast and affordable broadband access throughout the county. This funding from this bill will be intentionally used to target underserved communities and improve access to broadband networks across the county. This means creating the ability to communicate to businesses, schools, and communities in a way we haven't been able to before.



HB 3201 is required to correct problems in Oregon's current laws that drive inequities in getting unserved areas connected with the bandwidth that they need to be successful. It gives broadband experts the ability to determine appropriate speed targets and adjust them as needed, which is important to maintaining a sustainable solution to serve our most unserved and underserved communities. It also removes the First Right of Refusal for incumbents, established in the 2020 SB 1603, and ensures that unserved communities are the target communities to benefit from this fund.

It is imperative that Oregon does not miss out on securing federal funding to meet statewide broadband needs. HB 3201 takes the necessary steps to prioritize unserved and underserved communities and maximize funding to expand broadband access.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY ALEX CUYLER, LANE COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS MANAGER