

**COURTNEY NERON**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
**DISTRICT 26**



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**Testimony in Support of HB 3201**

February 21, 2023

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chairs Morgan and Daniel Nguyen, and members of the House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business,

For the record, my name is Courtney Neron and I am the State Representative for HD 26, writing in support of HB3201.

We have significant gaps in our broadband infrastructure here in Oregon, especially in our rural and frontier communities. Residents living along the urban growth boundary also have had less access, which has impacted their opportunity to grow online businesses. Without broadband access, students struggle to access learning resources, and many people have an unfortunate barrier to accessing virtual medical care.

During the Pandemic Emergency, I worked with my local cities to invest significant ARPA funding into strategically economic areas as well as underserved and growing areas of our district. These dollars helped accelerate growth and access to broadband in the region by interconnecting the cities of Wilsonville, Sherwood, King City, along with our rural communities tap into internet services. While this was a first step in building the infrastructure, we still have an ongoing need to scale up expansions of the network.

**HB 3201 ensures that the Broadband Fund will not create barriers in our ability to obtain federal broadband dollars and sets a preference for projects serving historically underserved and underrepresented residents. By aligning Oregon statute with federal rules and best practices, we are positioned to pull in federal dollars to build up stable and reliable internet access.**

I am grateful for Representative Marsh for her work in passing HB 4092. We must continue the good work that we began last session and continue to pull down federal dollars as investments in the state that will have a multiplying impact in Oregon's economy and growth.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, I urge your support in passage of HB 3201 from the committee.

Sincerely,

Representative Courtney Neron

Wilsonville, including the Charbonneau district, King City, Sherwood,  
Tigard/Bull Mountain, and Parrett Mountain