

February 11, 2026

The Honorable Jason Kropf, Chair
The Honorable Willy Chotzen, Vice Chair
The Honorable Kim Wallan, Vice Chair
Oregon State Capitol Building
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Supporting HB 4140

Dear Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and Members of the Committee:

USTelecom – The Broadband Association (“USTelecom”)¹ and its members, America’s innovative broadband providers, are committed to delivering resilient and reliable broadband internet service to their hundreds of thousands of Oregon consumers. The broadband industry has invested more than \$2.2 trillion² in network infrastructure throughout the country since 1996—with approximately \$89.6 billion invested in 2024 alone—and USTelecom members are among the country’s top investors. We support HB 4140, because it will address the surge of copper theft and vandalism facing our members and the communities they serve.

USTelecom members build and maintain broadband networks that support every sector of the economy from healthcare and public safety to energy, transportation, and education. But the growing threat of copper theft and vandalism is leading to daily network disruptions that impact a significant number of Oregon consumers and result in expensive repairs. The rising cost of copper incentivizes bad actors to target communications lines with the goal of selling the copper to scrap metal dealers. Since the demand for copper is growing faster than supply, scrap metal dealers are more likely to accept it without confirming its origin in times of high demand. In the search for copper, fiber-optic networks and other critical infrastructure can also become collateral damage, draining providers of resources that could otherwise be directed toward broadband deployment.³

The most effective way to combat this problem is collaboration across all sectors from law enforcement and government to business and community leaders to disrupt this illicit market and ensure stronger enforcement against bad actors. HB 4140 embraces this approach by proposing helpful steps like establishing a scrap metal seller registration database and requiring businesses to sign up with a

¹ USTelecom is the premier trade association representing service providers and suppliers for the communications industry. USTelecom members provide a full array of services, including broadband, voice, data, and video over wireline and wireless networks. Its diverse membership ranges from international publicly traded corporations to local and regional companies and cooperatives, serving consumers and businesses in every corner of the country.

² USTelecom, 2024 Broadband Capex Report, October 21, 2025; available at: www.ustelecom.org/research/2024-broadband-capex-report

³ USTelecom, NCTA, CTIA, NTCA, WIA, ACA, “Protecting Critical Communications Infrastructure Report,” Fall 2025; available at <https://ustelecom.org/research/protecting-critical-communication-infrastructure-report-fall-2025>

national scrap metal theft alert system. These measures in addition to enhanced felony penalties against offenders will help weaken copper theft operations across the board.

For the reasons, USTelecom urges you to advance HB 4140.

Sincerely,

/s/ B. Lynn Follansbee

B. Lynn Follansbee
Vice President, Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships
USTelecom—The Broadband Association