



House Bill 999 – Member-Regulated Cooperatives – Establishment (Rural Broadband for the Eastern Shore Act of 2020)

Position: Support

Maryland REALTORS® support HB 999 which will help expand broadband to many residents of the Eastern Shore.

Over 300,000 Marylanders across the state are estimated to be without access to broadband services. While HB 999 won't solve this problem for all Marylanders, it will help address underserved communities on the Eastern Shore.

REALTORS® report that broadband is viewed by most buyers as an important and needed service, similar to utilities provided to the house. In fact, many REALTORS® have experienced buyers who have walked away from properties because the property lacked access to high-speed internet.

Studies show that access to high-speed internet increases the value of a home by upwards of 3%. Families rely on broadband for entertainment, work, and as a resource for school age children.

HB 999 will provide a pathway for Choptank Electric to provide these important services and REALTORS® recommend a favorable report.

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