

President Robert Meffley, District 1
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COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
Cecil County Administration Building
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Suite 2110, Elkton, MD 21921

February 12, 2020

The Hon. Derick E. Davis, Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 999 Member-Regulated Cooperatives –
Establishment (Rural Broadband for the Eastern Shore Act of 2020)
Letter of Support

Dear Chairman Davis:

The County Council of Cecil County unanimously supports HB 999 Member-Regulated Cooperatives – Establishment (Rural Broadband for the Eastern Shore Act of 2020), which is scheduled for hearing on March 5, 2020.

This legislation will establish a process for a cooperative to operate as a member-regulated cooperative and enable Choptank Electric Cooperative to relieve regulatory and economic hurdles to incentivize broadband service in rural areas of the Eastern Shore.

This legislation benefits Cecil County by creating the opportunity for residents of our county who live south of the C&D Canal to have broadband access. This area includes 6,400 residents and covers over 43,000 acres, which is about 20% of the entire county.

If this legislation is not approved, Cecil County residents of Cecilton, Warwick and Earleville will have limited broadband dial service.

The Cecil County Council respectfully requests that the Economic Matters Committee consider a favorable report on HB 999.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Meffley".

Robert Meffley
Council President

Copy: Delegate Kevin Hornberger
Delegate Steve Arentz
Delegate Jay Jacobs
Delegate Jeff Ghrist
Delegate Teresa Reilly
Delegate Mike Griffith