



February 14, 2020

Delegate Derrick Davis
Chair, House Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 231
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Davis,

On behalf of our 700 member businesses and organizations representing more than 50,000 employees across the eastern shore, the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce strongly urges a favorable report on House Bill 999. The Rural Broadband for the Eastern Shore Act of 2020 is a common sense business and residential friendly piece of legislation that will encourage economic development across the eastern shore. Electric Cooperatives and specifically Choptank Electric, are trusted utility providers that possess the economy of scale to add broadband services to their menu of business and consumer offerings. Access to broadband is bi-partisan and common sense for our rural and underserved communities. The desperate need to fill this digital desert and a provider willing to invest to get it done, is long overdue.

The businesses and organizations on our eastern shore deserve and need this legislation to become a reality. Thank you and the members of the Committee for your attention and support for this initiative.

Sincerely,

William R. Chambers
President / CEO
Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce
144 East Main Street
Salisbury, Maryland 21801
bchambers@salisburyarea.com
410-749-0144
FAX 410-860-9925
www.salisburyarea.com

**SALISBURY AREA
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

144 EAST MAIN ST.

P.O. Box 510

SALISBURY
MARYLAND
21803-0510

TELEPHONE:
410-749-0144

FAX:
410-860-9925

**ACCREDITED BY
THE CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE OF THE
UNITED STATES
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