



February 13, 2023

LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

Favorable
House Bill 551
Broadband Expansion Incentive Act of 2023
House Ways and Means Committee
Thursday, February 16, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary and Members of the Committee,

The Harford County Chamber of Commerce serves as the premier business advocate in Harford County helping our members connect and thrive to create a vibrant economy across all sectors of our county.

As introduced, House Bill 551 creates a five-year moratorium on the sales and use tax for broadband infrastructure equipment. It also ends state taxation of federal broadband grants, maximizing taxpayer investment in these critical infrastructure projects.

Broadband accessibility in certain areas of Harford County is non-existent or minimal. HB 551 will bridge the digital divide and ensure that Harford County residents and businesses are positioned to take advantage of this necessary technology. Harford County employers, schools, community service organizations, and others must increasingly rely on digital access for everyday functions. As such, it is critical now more than ever that Maryland extend broadband access to everyone.

This legislation will put Maryland at the forefront of economic competitiveness, spur business activity across the state and provide jobs and stability. The Harford County Chamber of Commerce values expanding broadband access and therefore respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 551.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Angela M. Rose

Angela M. Rose
President & CEO

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