



February 28, 2020

Delegate Dereck E. Davis
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 999, Member-Regulated Cooperatives- Establishment (Rural Broadband for the Eastern Shore Act of 2020)

Dear Delegate Davis:

Kent Fiber Optics is a dark fiber provider in Kent County Maryland. Our network was built thru a public private partnership with the County. There would have been no economic way to have built the network without that partnership. Broadband deployment is too expensive and when you are in regions where there is low population, there is no business model to justify the cost.

Kent County was unique in the fact that they had the resources to create a P3, most other counties don't. The use of existing resources from a utility company makes sense to solve this problem, as long as they are only servicing unserved areas and not competing with other providers that have already made investments.

Economic growth will not occur in regions where there is no broadband and it is also becoming increasingly more difficult to stay in these regions for students, telecommuters and businesses.

We welcome favorable legislation to help bring service to Rural Maryland. Kent Fiber Optics, LLC requests a favorable consideration for HB999.

Sincerely,

Dee Anna Sobczak
CEO
Kent Fiber Optics, LLC.

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