



Upper Shore Regional Council

122 North Cross St.
Chestertown, MD 21620
410-810-2126

Executive Board

February 20, 2020

Bob Meffley
Chair
Cecil County
Councilman

The Honorable Delores Kelley
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East

Chris Corchiarino
1st Vice Chair
Queen Anne's County
Councilman

Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB540/HB999 The Rural Broadband for Eastern Shore Act of 2020

Tom Mason
2nd Vice Chair
Kent County
Commissioner

Dear Senator Kelley and Finance Committee members:

The Upper Shore Regional Council is writing in support of SB540/HB999 The Rural Broadband for Eastern Shore Act of 2020. The USRC supports Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's counties in regional economic development and planning. Access to broadband is one of our top priorities, and Choptank's proposal to reach out to our rural citizens who are underserved is a welcome solution to a decades long problem.

Jackie Gregory
3rd Vice Chair
Cecil County
Councilwoman

This bill will ensure rural communities the ability to access the internet and fill the void of the "digital divide" here on the Eastern Shore. It also provides a level playing field for our students who require the internet to complete their studies.

Jack Wilson
Secretary
Queen Anne's County
Councilman

Upper Shore Regional Council and it's board of directors respectfully request favorable consideration of SB540/HB999 The Rural Broadband for Eastern Shore Act of 2020.

Ron Fithian
Treasurer
Kent County
Commissioner

Respectfully,

Susan O'Neill
Executive Director

Stephen S. Hershey
Senator, District 36
Maryland General
Assembly

Cc: Bob Meffley, Chair
Matthew Tefteau, Choptank Electric

Susan O'Neill
Executive Director
soneill@kentgov.org