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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. Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 540 Member-Regulated Cooperatives –
Establishment (Rural Broadband for the Eastern Shore Act of 2020)
Letter of Support

Dear Senator Kelley:

The County Council of Cecil County unanimously supports SB 540 Member-Regulated Cooperatives – Establishment (Rural Broadband for the Eastern Shore Act of 2020), which is scheduled for hearing on February 25, 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 benefit 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 Finance Committee consider a favorable report on SB 540.

Sincerely,


Robert Meffley
Council President

Copy: Senator Steve Hershey
Senator Jason Gallion