



February 14, 2020

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

Dear Senator Kelley,

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 Senate Bill 540. 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,

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**ACCREDITED BY
THE CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE OF THE
UNITED STATES
SINCE 1966**

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