

February 24, 2020

The Honorable Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.
420 James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: SUPPORT SB540- Rural Broadband for the Eastern Shore Act of 2020

Dear Senator Hershey,

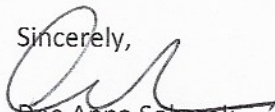
Kent Fiber Optics is a dark fiber provider in Kent County Maryland. Our network was built thru a public private partnership with the County. There would have been no economic way to have built the network without that partnership. Broadband deployment is too expensive and when you are in regions where 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 SB540.

Sincerely,



Dee Anna Sobczak

CEO

Kent Fiber Optics, LLC.

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