



**Choptank Electric
Cooperative**
A Touchstone Energy
Cooperative



P.O. BOX 430, Denton, MD 21629
Toll-Free: 1-877-892-0001
Z_info@choptankelectric.coop
www.choptankelectric.coop

February 25, 2020

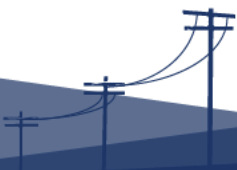
Support SB 540 - The Member Regulated Cooperatives - Rural Broadband for the Eastern Shore Act of 2020

Dear Chairman Delores Kelley and Members of the Committee:

Being a member-owned electric cooperative, Choptank Electric has heard from their members who have shared their stories with lawmakers, board of directors, and staff about the importance to have access to reliable high-speed internet. Here are several stories we have gathered in the last 9 months. **Over 11,160 emails** were sent to the Eastern Shore Delegation from our members advocating and supporting the passage of SB **540**.

As a member of Choptank Electric Cooperative and a resident of the Eastern Shore, I feel empowered by Choptank's vision and commitment to improving the quality of life for members. *In rural MD, high speed internet is only available via satellite and is very unreliable and does not work for many realtime applications of today. Furthermore, there are usage restrictions on satellite service that further prevents rural users the same benefits traditional service providers offer in towns and cities. Terrestrial broadband is imperative in today's world. Choptank and other electric companies already have access to the customer where traditional service provider would have to build out cable plants in order to reach rural MD. This is a prohibitive costly undertaking that Comcast, Verizon, Medicom, etc will not under take without executive action which is equally not likely to happen.* Reliable, high-speed internet access is a priority to me and my neighbors living throughout Choptank's service area. Current regulatory restrictions prevent Choptank members from using our economies-of-scale to deliver broadband services quickly and efficiently to our homes. I support Choptank Electric Cooperative's effort to become a member-regulated utility. This will allow our Cooperative Board to be responsive to members on rates and to finally address our need for reliable, high-speed, internet service. This solves a local problem with a local solution provided. I encourage our state legislators, regulatory agencies, and others who care about the Eastern Shore to support this broadband initiative. *as a 30 year veteran of the telecom industry and current design engineer of high speed networks, if I can be of any assistance to you to help you support all effort to allow Choptank and other electric companies offer high speed internet to rural MD, please contact me. High speed internet today is as important as getting a telephone in every home was 50 years ago.*


Sincerely,



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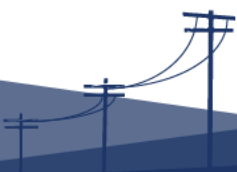
Howard Quillen
7563 Purnell Crossing Road,
Berlin, MD 21811

The internet and electronic communication has now become a means of everyday living and a business necessity. Many of us who live in a rural area work out of our home. Not having the wherewithal to do so, is a major handicap and inconvenience in today's technology world. We should not be discriminated or not given every opportunity to achieve this important necessity because of our home location. The internet is as essential as electricity. I would think that any elected official concerned about the quality of life for his or her constituents would support this broadband initiative. As a member of Choptank Electric Cooperative and a resident of the Eastern Shore, I feel excited by Choptank's vision towards improving the life and welfare for its members. Reliable, high-speed internet access is a priority to me and my neighbors living throughout Choptank's service area. Current regulatory restrictions prevent Choptank members from using our economies-of-scale to deliver broadband services quickly and efficiently to our homes. I support Choptank Electric Cooperative's effort to become a member-regulated utility. This will allow our Cooperative Board to be responsive to members on rates and to finally address our need for reliable, high-speed, internet service. This solves a local problem with a local solution provided by a proven trusted partner - our electric cooperative. I encourage and respectfully ask our state legislators, regulatory agencies, and others who care about the Eastern Shore to support this broadband initiative. Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely,

Thomas Dougherty
5203 Heron Rd
Cambridge, MD 21613


Over the past few years i have been looking at upgrading my home to include smart camera monitoring, smart devices, and work from home. With the lack of broadband in the rural community i have been unable to take advantage of these opportunities. These are simple things that people in more populated area take for granted. They increase our our home safety, our earning potential, and our quality of life. As a member of Choptank Electric Cooperative and a resident of the Eastern Shore, I feel empowered by Choptank's vision and commitment to improving the quality of life for members. Reliable, high-speed internet access is a priority to me and my neighbors living throughout Choptank's service area. Current regulatory restrictions prevent Choptank members from using our economies-



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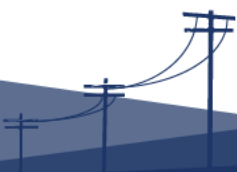
Sincerely,

Roger Kahl
32490 West Post Office road
Princess Anne, MD 21853

The internet and electronic communication has now become a means of everyday living and a business necessity. Many of us who live in a rural area work out of our home. Not having the wherewithal to do so, is a major handicap and inconvenience in today's technology world. We should not be discriminated or not given every opportunity to achieve this important necessity because of our home location. The internet is as essential as electricity. I would think that any elected official concerned about the quality of life for his or her constituents would support this broadband initiative. As a member of Choptank Electric Cooperative and a resident of the Eastern Shore, I feel excited by Choptank's vision towards improving the life and welfare for its members. Reliable, high-speed internet access is a priority to me and my neighbors living throughout Choptank's service area. Current regulatory restrictions prevent Choptank members from using our economies-of-scale to deliver broadband services quickly and efficiently to our homes. I support Choptank Electric Cooperative's effort to become a member-regulated utility. This will allow our Cooperative Board to be responsive to members on rates and to finally address our need for reliable, high-speed, internet service. This solves a local problem with a local solution provided by a proven trusted partner - our electric cooperative. I encourage and respectfully ask our state legislators, regulatory agencies, and others who care about the Eastern Shore to support this broadband initiative. Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Dougherty
5203 Heron Rd
Cambridge, MD 21613





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In today's world, having access to high speed internet has become a necessity. Currently, I can't even keep my devices up to date with basic security patches, drivers, or firmware updates as it will exceed my monthly Gb allowance that Verizon has deemed 'appropriate' for wireless 4G internet. Currently my home is located a mile from the nearest Comcast service box and I was quoted 50K to have that service dug to my home. This is ridiculous!! Choptank is attempting to provide a vital service to it's members and should be supported in this endeavor. They have always provided excellent service to us, and their people have always been courteous, kind, and willing to help with any issues we've had. It's this devotion to their members and their willingness to tackle a tough job that make Choptank, and this broadband initiative, an effort to endorse and fully support. And I hope that you will support them, as they have supported us!

Sincerely,

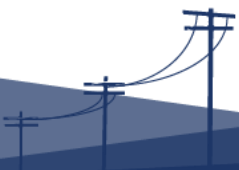
Daniel Simmers
7357 Puncheon Landing
Pocomoke City, MD 21851

As a member of Choptank Electric Cooperative and a resident of the Eastern Shore, I agree 10000% and feel empowered by Choptank's vision and commitment to improving the quality of life for members. Reliable, high-speed internet access is a priority to me and my neighbors living throughout Choptank's service area. Current regulatory restrictions prevent Choptank members from using our economies-of-scale to deliver broadband services quickly and efficiently to our homes. I support Choptank Electric Cooperative's effort to become a member-regulated utility. This will allow our Cooperative Board to be responsive to members on rates and to finally address our need for reliable, high-speed, internet service. This solves a local problem with a local solution provided by a trusted partner - our electric cooperative. I encourage our state legislators, regulatory agencies, and others who care about the Eastern Shore to support this broadband initiative.

Sincerely,

Timothy Donalds Jr
9114 Barbaro Dr
Hebron, MD 21830

As a resident of the Eastern Shore, I support Choptank's vision and commitment to improving the quality of life for members. It's imperative that families in our rural areas



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have access to high speed internet. I know of children who are required to do school work via accessing an online program and it's impossible for them to do so at home. This causes their grades to suffer and ultimately they get behind in their education. It's not fair. Reliable, high-speed internet access is a priority to me and my neighbors living throughout Choptank's service area. Current regulatory restrictions prevent Choptank members from using our economies-of-scale to deliver broadband services quickly and efficiently to our homes. I support Choptank Electric Cooperative's effort to become a member-regulated utility. This will allow our Cooperative Board to be responsive to members on rates and to finally address our need for reliable, high-speed, internet service. This solves a local problem with a local solution provided by a trusted partner - our electric cooperative. I encourage our state legislators, regulatory agencies, and others who care about the Eastern Shore to support this broadband initiative.

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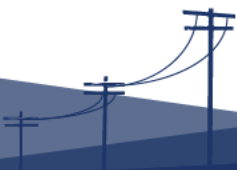
Summer Widmyer
2641 Snow Hill Road
Girdletree, MD 21829

The lack of any options for high speed internet in my neighborhood makes it impossible to do many things that other people of Talbot county take for granted. There is no possibility of streaming material, very limited bandwidth to do home work assigned by the Talbot County Schools, run a home business, or communicate with the rest of the world. What the rest of the world considers a utility Talbot has instead initiated a political fight between providers that leaves us in the digital dark. Please help the 60 + citizens of Talbot county and MD in my neighborhood to get into at least the 20th century. As a member of Choptank Electric Cooperative and a resident of the Eastern Shore, I urge you to break up the log jam created by the utilities, counties and towns that all refuse us service. This problem affects almost every aspect of our lives such as property values, business opportunities and everyday life in 2020. Thanks for you help in advance.

Sincerely,

William Bernard
6856 Travelers Rest Circle
Easton, MD 21601

Please please please allow choptank to start providing broadband service. We have no



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high speed internet access and Will have to take our kids to public Wi-Fi for homework! This isn't acceptable! As a member of Choptank Electric Cooperative and a resident of the Eastern Shore, I feel empowered by Choptank's vision and commitment to improving the quality of life for members. Reliable, high-speed internet access is a priority to me and my neighbors living throughout Choptank's service area. Current regulatory restrictions prevent Choptank members from using our economies-of-scale to deliver broadband services quickly and efficiently to our homes. I support Choptank Electric Cooperative's effort to become a member-regulated utility. This will allow our Cooperative Board to be responsive to members on rates and to finally address our need for reliable, high-speed, internet service. This solves a local problem with a local solution provided by a trusted partner - our electric cooperative. I encourage our state legislators, regulatory agencies, and others who care about the Eastern Shore to support this broadband initiative.

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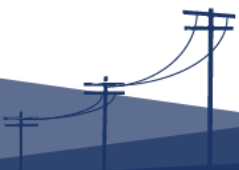
Becky Richardson
5314 Onley Rd
Girdletree, MD 21829

As a resident of the Eastern Shore, I feel empowered by Choptank's vision and commitment to improving the quality of life for members. Reliable, high-speed internet access is a priority to me and my neighbors living throughout Choptank's service area. Current regulatory restrictions prevent Choptank members from using our economies-of-scale to deliver broadband services quickly and efficiently to our homes. I support Choptank Electric Cooperative's effort to become a member-regulated utility. This will allow our Cooperative Board to be responsive to members on rates and to finally address our need for reliable, high-speed, internet service. This solves a local problem with a local solution provided by a trusted partner - our electric cooperative. I encourage our state legislators, regulatory agencies, and others who care about the Eastern Shore to support this broadband initiative.

Sincerely,

Joe Sanders
5638 George Island Landing Rd
Stockton, MD 21864

As a member of Choptank Electric Cooperative and a resident of the Eastern Shore, I feel empowered by Choptank's vision and commitment to improving the quality of life for



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members. *I am working towards being self employed but am limited to how I can get this business going without the tools necessary to do it from home. I am finding that I have to come in early or stay late to complete personal tasks with my current employer so that I can accomplish my goals as a potential business owner.* Reliable, high-speed internet access is a priority to me and my neighbors living throughout Choptank's service area. Current regulatory restrictions prevent Choptank members from using our economies-of-scale to deliver broadband services quickly and efficiently to our homes. I support Choptank Electric Cooperative's effort to become a member-regulated utility. This will allow our Cooperative Board to be responsive to members on rates and to finally address our need for reliable, high-speed, internet service. This solves a local problem with a local solution provided by a trusted partner - our electric cooperative. I encourage our state legislators, regulatory agencies, and others who care about the Eastern Shore to support this broadband initiative.

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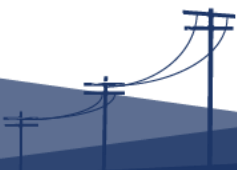
Wendy Mitchell Taylor
32671 Bluff Point Drive
Cordova, MD 21625

Please consider this request. We are only a half mile from internet cables yet they want us to pay \$50k to get reliable internet. It is seriously affecting our life- our kids' schooling, my home business, our quality of life- we have considered strongly moving because of internet alone. PLEASE take measures to help us!

Sincerely,

Rachel Harris
1304 Buck Harbor Rd
Pocomoke City, MD 21851

As a member of Choptank Electric Cooperative and a resident of the Eastern Shore, I feel empowered by Choptank's vision and commitment to improving the quality of life for members. Reliable, high-speed internet access is a priority to me and my neighbors living throughout Choptank's service area. Current regulatory restrictions prevent Choptank members from using our economies-of-scale to deliver broadband services quickly and efficiently to our homes. I support Choptank Electric Cooperative's effort to become a member-regulated utility. This will allow our Cooperative Board to be responsive to members on rates and to finally address our need for reliable, high-speed, internet service.



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This solves a local problem with a local solution provided by a trusted partner - our electric cooperative. ***As someone that does online school for medical reasons. It would be an extreme help to not have to use satellite internet because sending and receiving assignments would be alot faster and easier to do. I wouldn't have to stress about not being able to contact peers becuae of my internet I encourage our state legislators, regulatory agencies, and others who care about the Eastern Shore to support this broadband initiative.***

Sincerely,

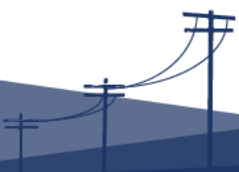
Dallin Rogers
3497 redden ferry road
Eden, MD 21822

As a member of Choptank Electric Cooperative and a resident of Talbot County, I feel empowered by Choptank's vision and commitment to improving the quality of life for members. Reliable, high-speed internet access is a priority to me and my neighbors living throughout Choptank's service area. Current regulatory restrictions prevent Choptank members from using our economies-of-scale to deliver broadband services quickly and efficiently to our homes. I support Choptank Electric Cooperative's effort to become a member-regulated utility. This will allow our Cooperative Board to be responsive to members on rates and to finally address our need for reliable, high-speed, internet service. This solves a local problem with a local solution provided by a trusted partner - our electric cooperative. I encourage our state legislators, regulatory agencies, and others who care about the Eastern Shore to support this broadband initiative.

Sincerely,

Michele Johnson
5486 Wellington Drive
Trappe, MD 21673


Reliable, high-speed internet access is a priority to me and my neighbors living throughout Choptank's service area. Current regulatory restrictions prevent Choptank members from using our economies-of-scale to deliver broadband services quickly and efficiently to our homes. I support Choptank Electric Cooperative's effort to become a member-regulated utility. This will allow our Cooperative Board to be responsive to members on rates and to finally address our need for reliable, high-speed, internet service. This solves a local problem with a local solution provided by a trusted partner - our electric cooperative. I



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encourage our state legislators, regulatory agencies, and others who care about the Eastern Shore to support this broadband initiative.

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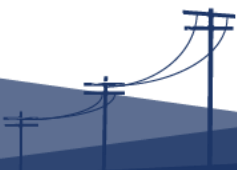
Susan Bennett
23287 Holly Park Drive
Preston, MD 21655

As a member of Choptank Electric Cooperative and a resident of the Eastern Shore, I feel empowered by Choptank's vision and commitment to improving the quality of life for members. Reliable, high-speed internet access is a priority to me and my neighbors living throughout Choptank's service area. Current regulatory restrictions prevent Choptank members from using our economies-of-scale to deliver broadband services quickly and efficiently to our homes. ***This would allow me to also do my job efficiently since I need reliable Internet service to upload and download my work assignments. The current available options are not reliable and has caused major problems for me personally and professionally.*** I support Choptank Electric Cooperative's effort to become a member-regulated utility. This will allow our Cooperative Board to be responsive to members on rates and to finally address our need for reliable, high-speed, internet service. This solves a local problem with a local solution provided by a trusted partner - our electric cooperative. I encourage our state legislators, regulatory agencies, and others who care about the Eastern Shore to support this broadband initiative.

Sincerely,

Marie Halverson
923 Parsons Drive
Madison, MD 21648


The internet and electronic communication has now become a means of everyday living and a business necessity. Many of us who live in a rural area work out of our home. Not having the wherewithal to do so, is a major handicap and inconvenience in today's technology world. We should not be discriminated or not given every opportunity to achieve this important necessity because of our home location. The internet is as essential as electricity. I would think that any elected official concerned about the quality of life for his or her constituents would support this broadband initiative. As a member of Choptank Electric Cooperative and a resident of the Eastern Shore, I feel excited by



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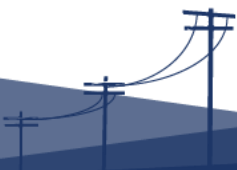
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Sincerely,

Alma Fitzgerald
5210 Heron Road
Cambridge, MD 21613

As a member of Choptank Electric Cooperative and a resident of the Eastern Shore, I feel empowered by Choptank's vision and commitment to improving the quality of life for members. Reliable, high-speed internet access is a priority to me and my neighbors living throughout Choptank's service area. Current regulatory restrictions prevent Choptank members from using our economies-of-scale to deliver broadband services quickly and efficiently to our homes. I support Choptank Electric Cooperative's effort to become a member-regulated utility. This will allow our Cooperative Board to be responsive to members on rates and to finally address our need for reliable, high-speed, internet service. This solves a local problem with a local solution provided by a trusted partner - our electric cooperative. I encourage our state legislators, regulatory agencies, and others who care about the Eastern Shore to support this broadband initiative. ***I am currently being taking advantage of by Verizon by being forced to keep paying for a landline service I no longer need. My internet service I pay \$90/month (\$45 for phone service and \$45 for internet) for is for barely 3 Megs down and not even 1 Meg up. Verizon has no plans on coming out anytime soon. Comcast has no plans either. Satellite internet is a joke and the Bloosurf internet that's supposed to be for rural use...I can't use thanks to trees and their tower is located in Salisbury 8 miles away at the Salisbury University tower...really rural service there. This would be an answer to my prayers...but I'm pretty sure Verizon, Comcast, and other services don't want this passed since Verizon just in my location alone would lose close to \$1000/month just off my road alone not including most of Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties. Please pass this***



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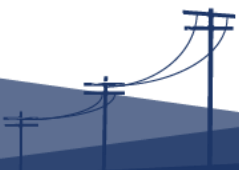
Richard Plaskon
8027 Greenbriar Swamp Rd
Salisbury, MD 21804

As a member of Choptank Electric Cooperative and a resident of the Eastern Shore, I feel empowered by Choptank's vision and commitment to improving the quality of life for members. Reliable, high-speed internet access is a priority to me and my neighbors living throughout Choptank's service area. Current regulatory restrictions prevent Choptank members from using our economies-of-scale to deliver broadband services quickly and efficiently to our homes. I support Choptank Electric Cooperative's effort to become a member-regulated utility. This will allow our Cooperative Board to be responsive to members on rates and to finally address our need for reliable, high-speed, internet service. This solves a local problem with a local solution provided by a trusted partner - our electric cooperative. I encourage our state legislators, regulatory agencies, and others who care about the Eastern Shore to support this broadband initiative. ***I am a teacher and would really appreciate to be able to have access to improved internet. It would take us out of the second class citizen category! Mary***

Sincerely,

Mary Antlfinger-Norton
3311 Phillip's Road
Salisbury, MD 21804

As a member of Choptank Electric Cooperative and a resident of the Eastern Shore, I'm desperate for reliable broadband internet access. Reliable, high-speed internet access is a priority to me and my neighbors living throughout Choptank's service area. Current regulatory restrictions prevent Choptank members from using our economies-of-scale to deliver broadband services quickly and efficiently to our homes. ***Comcast refuses to wire around 40% of Wicomico County. I'm currently using a cellphone modem hotspot as my home internet solution, because it's basically the only option available to me aside from satellite. Choptank's plan for offering broadband would be a Godsend to so many rural communities on the Eastern Shore. I support Choptank Electric Cooperative's effort to become a member-regulated utility. This will allow our Cooperative Board to be responsive to members on rates and to finally address our need for reliable, high-speed,***



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internet service. Please support this broadband initiative.

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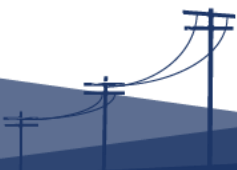
William Duck
3359 Phillips Road
Salisbury, MD 21804

As a member of Choptank Electric Cooperative and a resident of the Eastern Shore, I feel empowered by Choptank's vision and commitment to improving the quality of life for members. ***We are in the process of moving from Atlanta, Georgia to Cambridge, Maryland. Although we absolutely love the area, we have been extremely disappointed to learn that our chosen home is not served by reliable high-speed internet. It is difficult to explain to our grandchildren that they cannot play their video games nor watch some of their favorite streaming shows because our area is not up with the times. And although we tell all of our friends this is an area they should consider when looking to move, they, too, hesitate when they learn about the lack of services. Fast, reliable access is a priority to me and my neighbors living throughout Choptank's service area. It should also be a priority for our educational system to better serve our future.*** Current regulatory restrictions prevent Choptank members from using our economies-of-scale to deliver broadband services quickly and efficiently to our homes. I support Choptank Electric Cooperative's effort to become a member-regulated utility. This will allow our Cooperative Board to be responsive to members on rates and to finally address our need for reliable, high-speed, internet service. This solves a local problem with a local solution provided by a trusted partner - our electric cooperative. I encourage our state legislators, regulatory agencies, and others who care about the Eastern Shore to support this broadband initiative. Thank you for helping us toward this end. Carol Smith

Sincerely,

Carol Smith
1416 Town Point Road
Cambridge, MD 21613

As a member of Choptank Electric Cooperative and a resident of the Eastern Shore, I feel empowered by Choptank's vision and commitment to improving the quality of life for members. ***Our home is not served by any broadband service at the moment. To engage the internet and communications necessary for business and life we must rely on a capricious***



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satellite system. To fully engage the 21st century technology, wide broadband service is as important as any other public utility. Please allow the community to move forward in this respect. Reliable, high-speed internet access is a priority to me and my neighbors living throughout Choptank's service area. Current regulatory restrictions prevent Choptank members from using our economies-of-scale to deliver broadband services quickly and efficiently to our homes. I support Choptank Electric Cooperative's effort to become a member-regulated utility. This will allow our Cooperative Board to be responsive to members on rates and to finally address our need for reliable, high-speed, internet service. This solves a local problem with a local solution provided by a trusted partner - our electric cooperative. I encourage our state legislators, regulatory agencies, and others who care about the Eastern Shore to support this broadband initiative.

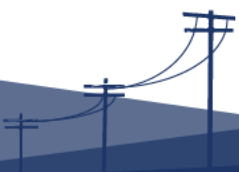
Sincerely,

Steven Kraftchick
1416 Town Point Road
Cambridge, MD 21613

As a lifelong Talbot County resident and current Choptank Electric Cooperative Member, I was very disappointed to see Easton Utilities trying to anchor my cooperative's efforts to deploy broadband to unserved areas of the Eastern Shore. Easton Utilities does not speak for the rural areas, especially here in Trappe. They also may not understand the regulatory certainty Choptank needs to be on the same level playing field as the other 700 electric cooperatives in the country, whom are member regulated. The broadband initiative Choptank is undertaking will affect young Choptank adult members like myself for generations to come. Choptank has been a devoted electric supplier for over 80 years with a 99.9% reliability system in place because of the investments they have made. Cooperatives throughout the country are being successful in deploying high speed internet to their members. Competition is welcomed here in the rural areas of the Eastern Shore. I understand the need for regulatory changes. I would then urge my state delegates and senator to support Choptank to be permitted, as a member-regulated cooperative. The rural areas of the Eastern Shore continue to be a prominent voting bloc in recent elections and being a member-owner of our cooperative, which is also democratically controlled, this initiative goes well beyond any town or county limits.

Sincerely,


Paul Harris
31270 Bruceville Rd



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Trappe, MD 21673

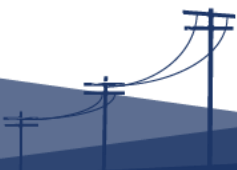
As a member of Choptank Electric Cooperative and a resident of the Eastern Shore, I feel empowered by Choptank's vision and commitment to improving the quality of life for members. We moved from The Town of Easton to Cordova almost 6 years ago. I never realized what a huge impact it would have to move to an area with no broadband. With 3 children, it has been difficult for them to complete schoolwork at home when we are relying on using hotspots on our phones for internet access. ***When I contacted Atlantic Broadband several years ago to see if there was any possibility of getting broadband at our home, I was given an estimate of \$16,000 to run broadband here. Needless to say, we did not do that. Although when you add up the amount we've paid to Verizon, AT&T, and Sprint in data charges, mobile hotspots, overage charges, etc., maybe it would've been more cost effective to pay the \$16,000. I'm sure that broadband won't make it to our home before my now teenagers are grown and out of the house. I hope that in the future, other rural families don't have to go through the frustration and expense that we have. We wouldn't trade the peace and tranquility out here in rural Talbot County for anything, the lack of reliable internet is truly the only downside!*** Reliable, high-speed internet access is a priority to me and my neighbors living throughout Choptank's service area. Current regulatory restrictions prevent Choptank members from using our economies-of-scale to deliver broadband services quickly and efficiently to our homes. I support Choptank Electric Cooperative's effort to become a member-regulated utility. This will allow our Cooperative Board to be responsive to members on rates and to finally address our need for reliable, high-speed, internet service. This solves a local problem with a local solution provided by a trusted partner - our electric cooperative. I encourage our state legislators, regulatory agencies, and others who care about the Eastern Shore to support this broadband initiative.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ottey
11610 Blades Rd
Cordova, MD 21625

We are currently using an expensive cell phone service provider to gain access to the internet. Since I work from home most of the time, I need to have unlimited internet which the Dish companies do not offer. In addition, the kids stream Netflix, Disney plus and other tv shows. Getting the broadband internet would be a cheaper option and more reliable than the options we currently have at our house. Please approve these bills to allow Choptank to make this possible.


-Matt Brody



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I just filled out the online form gauging interest for Choptank Broadband. Towards the end of the survey, I was asked about doing a speedtest, but I passed, since I am currently at work. I frequently test my home Download and Upload speeds using "SpeedTest". At home, my Download speeds have ranged from 0.1 Mbps up to maybe 5 - 6 Mbps at best on a good day. My Upload speeds are about the same. We average about 1 Mbps.

We almost never can "stream" any video - Netflix, Amazon, Disney, etc. At best, we may watch a few minutes, pause, and then watch another few minutes. Some streaming auto-adjusts the pixilation, and with poor (think 1950s) video quality, we may watch longer spurts. I am a physician, and it is difficult for me to do any work from home, and I am almost never able to see cardiac cath films or any imaging studies that require any internet speed.

We strongly support whatever efforts you have to get high speed service to our community
Joseph Cinderella, MD

I would love to have choptank electric provide internet service

-Margaret Conley

Please, please, please bring the high speed broad band internet to the rural areas of Dorchester County Maryland. We desperately need internet service that is reliable. Some of us work from home and the current services that are offered are via satellite. These type of internet services do no support our needs. Also, because we can not get the proper internet service, we are at a disadvantage and can not access Cable services like On Demand or home security applications and services. We beg you to please help us to obtain broad band internet

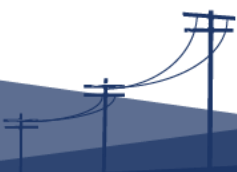
-Charlotte Hurst

Our household supports Broadband Fiber offered through Choptank Electric

-Louise Montgomery

We live down towards the end of Ferry Neck Road in Royal Oak in Talbot. Our internet choices are limited to Hughesnet, Viasat and Delmarva Wifi, and none is even remotely comparable to fiberoptic. We would be willing to pay a substantial fee to get fast reliable internet service to our home. We are of course already served by Choptank electric, and in over 20 years have never had a problem with service, even during hurricanes. Impressive to say the least.

Thank you,





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Ed Kilduff

I would love to have service in my rural area. I am a network engineer without internet at my home. My house works of cellular hotspots. Comcast wants 30,000 + to run out to our location.

-Stephanie

We live on the Eastern Shore for 6 months of the year with no access to the internet which is why we don't live there permanently. Our children refuse to visit. Please bring the internet !

-Lisa Hvizda

Good Evening,

I am writing this correspondence to speak for those in this area may not have the ability to do so due to little or no internet access. As a medical professional, I am aware that more and more physicians along with insurance companies are utilizing TeleMedicine. This is a major advancement in the rapid treatment of simple issues easing the burden on physician offices, ED's and patients themselves. In order to participate in TeleMed internet access and sustainability of connection is necessary. In this rural area there are locations that do not have internet service at all and others that are below par for usage at best. Any assistance in internet capabilities to this remote area would be of a great benefit not only to individuals daily lives but also to their physical well being and greatly appreciated.

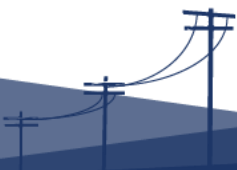
Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Tracey Hall, BSN RN DN/CM

I live near Marion Station, Md. My cell phone is useless here, hot spot useless. I have to leave home in vehicle to find wifi to order something on line or do banking. Can't open mail, dropped calls. Grandkids have hours of homework and projects after projects they need wifi really hurting their future. We really, really need this. Everybody thinks everyone has wifi they don't understand why we don't to do business, important business.

-Shelley Powell


I have been asking Choptank to consider this for many years. I am a rural choptank customer on the fringe of Talbot County. I am 8 miles out of Easton residing at 33296 Fox Road, just off of Maryland Route 328. We are surrounded by woods and, therefore, my only internet option has been Verizon 4G LTE or Satellite internet. Neither of which is very responsive as subject to hard data limits. Please move forward with Fiber internet as soon as possible for your rural customers, I feel certain you will find major interest and support



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for this initiative among your rural cooperative members. I am currently Coordinator of Network Services for Caroline County Public Schools in Denton which is near your Denton Choptank Office. If ever I can be of service in the planning/implementation of this Fiber Service I would be more than happy to work with you on this initiative. Please feel free to contact me via email or by phone 410-924-7500. I look forward to your success with this major step forward in equalizing internet distribution on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

-Mark Cauffman

Thank you for trying to get better internet service in our area. My Husband has a pace maker that we are not able to get direct connection for emergency purposes because our Hughes net service does not support the speed for proper connection. We support your efforts to help people like us in rural areas.

Thank you

Jo Ann Ashton

Living in Marion Station slow internet has been a huge hurdle making it impossible to work from home or have a home based business that could compete. High speed internet would be a huge break through for our area and would be a great economic benefit for our people. Please approve this legislation to assist with fiber optic high speed internet to choptank customers!

-Chad Heller

I am a retiree from Delmarva Power. My career with Delmarva included over thirty years in the IT network operations and telecommunications engineering group. Broadband service has always been critical to me in performing remote monitoring and troubleshooting from home. I experienced slow dialup service, extreme latency of satellite service, and the mediocre DSL speeds Verizon. Comcast will not come down the last mile to my house without around \$100,000 fee for installation. I joined the Lower Shore Broadband several years ago, but they were unable to reach my home. I have seen where Choptank has run a 144 count fiber optic cable in front of my house. It excites me to think that someday in the near future Choptank can partner with an ISP to provide the many members who would welcome true broadband performance at their homes.

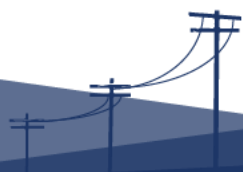
Sincerely,

John Warren

We hope this will be the answer to our problem with internet connections. We have suffered long enough with poor to no internet service four miles from Berlin.

-Barbara M Devenport


Broadband is needed in our area. We have lived in Worcester County for 15 years. My wife



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and I both worked from home. The phone lines and cell tower infrastructure is horrible. I have called Verizon last year over 30 times due to line problems with DSL and landline problems. Verizon will not run new wires thru our area. I was told everything is going wireless. That's great but the towers aren't pushing signals strong enough for good reception. So we pay the same amount of money cell phones, landline, internet as someone near SALISBURY or Snowhill. If we get all this aggravation we shouldn't be paying the same as someone with good service. My neighbor changed the battery in his alarm system and triggered the central station. They called his cell phone to see if it was a problem. He couldn't be reached so they sent the whole fire company down here on a false alarm. It is a Safety Issue BigTime. We had a bad wind storm we didn't have cell service, landline or DSL. I will give thanks to Choptank. The service is excellent. Two years ago we have Comcast Quote our area to run line to give us access to their service. The rep said that they were connecting new areas and they would get back to us. About three weeks went by and they called. They said that it would be 175,000 to hook my house up! I have traveled to foreign countries and had unbelievable good service. The government shouldn't allow Comcast - Verizon to operate without upgrading their infrastructure. I retired C and P telephone lineman said that the underground lines could be over 40yrs old. The lines can't handle all the customers connected trying to use DSL. The State Legislators need to step up and correct this problem instead of worry about Windpower.. We Need Internet Power Speed faster than 2.5 download and .75 upload. We need help.

Thanks

-Dennis Marine

What is needed is a new REA that electrified rural America but for broadband. We are being left behind technically from urban Americans. The implications of that are too numerous to mention. – Tony

I would really like the super service that Choptank electric coop provides for power distribution to also provide reliable internet access also.

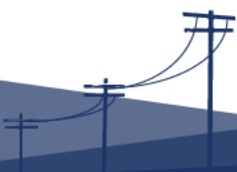
Sign us up

Tom & Marilyn Tolska

As a Choptank Electric customer I support broadband for our rural area.

-Martin Rogers


I forwarded a message to the Delegates, please install service to Baptist Church Rd in Mardela. I have contacted Comcast and they wanted to charge me \$250,000 to install internet approximately 2 miles away from the last address. We appreciate any help you may give us with this matter.



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Thank you
Chrissy Gambrill

Please help the people on Cottman Rd in Allen, Md 21810
Are26478/26456 Cottman Rd Eden, Md 21822

I have lived there for 33 years without any broadband. My children suffered
Having to pass by the pole at the end of rd knowing the internet was only a few houses
away. If you could consider starting with our rd first, as we are the last rd in Wicomico Coon
the south side. We have asked for just this for 33 years.

Thanks for your consideration <
Respectfully,
Dolores (Dee) Butler

We certainly need broadband access on the eastern shore, rural areas. The Major providers
have cream skimmed the cities and town centers and left the rural consumer left to
flounder with dial up service that is of poor quality and extremely expensive. No competition
leads to gouging and that is indeed what the providers of DSL service have been doing.
Choptank Cooperative is a fair and cost effective service that is owned by its users and is
concerned on creating a level playing field for it members. Please support their efforts and
approve the proposal before you to allow CC to provide High Speed Broadband access to its
members.

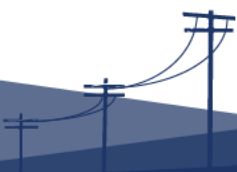
Thank you
William Gilmore

I was very encouraged to see my electric cooperative in front of the Talbot County Council.
As a new mother and Realtor, I have the need to work from home quite often, making
reliable, high-speed Internet access important to me. Choptank's vision through member
regulation and being allowed to use existing assets, including fiber, seems to be the most
practical solution. I would encourage the Talbot County Council and our state legislators to
support the member regulation structure and allow Choptank members the ability to roll out
broadband services faster and more comprehensively.

ALICIA GANNON DULIN


As a member of Choptank Electric Cooperative and longstanding resident of Talbot County,
I am glad to see Choptank's vision and commitment to serving their members' internet
connectivity needs.

Reliable, high-speed internet access is important to me and my neighbors living on Hopkins
Neck and throughout Choptank's service area. Choptank's leadership has detailed the
current statutory and regulatory restrictions preventing the members of Choptank Electric
Cooperative from using their economies of scale to deliver broadband services quickly and
efficiently to their homes.





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My current mobile phone, tower-based internet service cannot support the streaming services or heavy programmatic downloads that modern communication technologies require. I urge community and governmental support for Choptank to be permitted, as a member-regulated utility, to address our local need for reliable, high-speed, broadband internet access via a solution provided by a trusted, local partner, our electric cooperative.

I would encourage the Talbot County Council, our state legislators, regulatory agencies and others who live in the rural parts of the Eastern Shore served by Choptank to support this broadband initiative.

WILLIAM T. HUNTER JR.

Twenty-five percent of Talbot County's residents do not have access to broadband, which is a travesty considering it is one of, if not the, wealthiest counties in Maryland. I understand that Choptank Cooperative is getting resistance to bringing broadband to its customers, and I would ask that our elected representatives use every means available to bring access to high-speed internet to everyone in Talbot County.

As a resident without access, I've heard that the county has been slow to address the problem for a number reasons — chiefly because they don't want to raise taxes to pay for laying fiber. Travelers Rest residents in the past also have been told we would have to pay to run the cable from St Michaels Road to our homes.

Last winter, I hosted a member of our county council at my home to address residents on this issue. We were told the county had applied for money from the state and that we'd see something happen in October. And many of us have written to our county representatives only to see no action, response or follow up.

Many of us are trying to run businesses out of our homes, maintain professional certifications, get children through school and rent to vacationers. It is not fair that we are being denied what is now considered a basic utility.

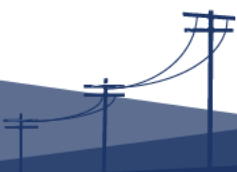
Current regulatory restrictions prevent Choptank members from using their cooperative to access broadband. If it means getting internet to the residents of Travelers Rest faster, I support Choptank Electric Cooperative's effort to become a member-regulated utility. I encourage our state legislators, regulatory agencies and others to do everything possible to facilitate access for all!

PAM KEETON

Please support SB 540 and HB 999. We are in desperate need of competitive pricing and better service in our rural area.

Anna Klapka


I am in full support to allow Choptank to offer broadband service to rural Maryland customers



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that otherwise will not have terrestrial broadband services. Please do NOT depend on 5G to address this issue. Many rural areas have poor cellular coverage as well and 5G will not be available in these under served areas for many years if ever. Please vote YES on these bills

Howard Quillen

You have my wife and my total support in addition to many neighbors who cannot fill out this e-mail because they lack dependable internet service.

Robert Stegman

We support SB 540 and HB 999

We live in a rural area that is only accessible to WiFi by a little hot spot device. I have to buy gigabytes from my phone service provider and can not have unlimited WiFi. When towers are adjusted or change services, I have been unable to access the internet. I have had a private company evaluate satellite access and it is still limited because of trees. I would like to take advantage of services that I already pay for , but do not have unlimited use of, because of lack of unlimited reliable internet services. This effect our household in home business, websites, home security, medical, entertainment, work, farming, creativity and education, just to name a few. Rural Eastern Shore should not be left out of the fast moving advances in technology.

SB 540 and HB 999

Warren and Sandy Saunders

I am the CEO of Kent Fiber Optics, a dark fiber ring located in Kent County. In rural areas the lack of broadband is a real problem. There is no business model that can sustain the cost to run fiber optics in some of these remote areas without government support through either grants, public private partnerships, or utilizing existing assets of utility providers. It makes sense that all of the stakeholders in these areas work together to come up with solutions so that no home is unserved.

We support Choptank's initiative to serve their customers in unserved areas, meaning in areas where no other company has spent resources to supply broadband. This bill should be used to help solve the problem of rural broadband while not devaluing an existing providers assets.

This would then be a big win for Maryland. It would not only help the rural residents, but also help economically develop and revitalize rural Maryland.

Dee Anna Sobczak

