



## Maryland Municipal League

*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

# TESTIMONY

March 4, 2021

**Committee:** House Economic Matters

**Bill:** HB 1328 - Economic Development – Broadband Providers – Joint Trenching and Fee (Building Out Broadband Act of 2021)

**Position:** Support

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League supports HB 1328 which, through a few mechanisms, seeks to enhance the deployment of broadband Internet service.

In addition to reconstituting a fund for broadband projects and allowing local governments to advance projects through local policies, the bill takes a unique approach to incentivize Internet deployment by reducing installment capital costs through joint trenching.

By allowing multiple providers to install hardwire Internet infrastructure along the same stretch of right-of-way at the same time several priorities are achieved:

- Broader Internet coverage area,
- increased consumer choice, and
- a reduction in inconvenience as the right-of-way is only disrupted once.

Understanding the importance of broader Internet deployment, we respectfully request that the committee provide a favorable report on HB 1328.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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