



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0824**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – BROADBAND PROVIDERS – JOINT TRENCHING AND FEE**  
**(BUILDING OUT BROADBAND ACT OF 2021)**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Hester

**Committee:** Finance

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0824 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

Maryland needs broadband for everyone. We cannot educate our children or compete effectively in business without it.

We strongly support the idea of a Digital Connectivity Fund as well as the idea of joint trenching. We cannot do this fast enough.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.