



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0551
Broadband Expansion Incentive Act of 2023**

Bill Sponsor: Speaker

Committee: Ways and Means

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0551 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.

This bill will allow for a subtraction from Federal taxable income the amount of any Federal grant money to expand broadband in the state and exempts network equipment sales from sales and use tax. This will help incentivize the expansion of broadband in the state. We must do everything we can to ensure that all the residents of the state have the same access to information.

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