



Ocean City, Maryland Chamber of Commerce

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TESTIMONY OFFERED ON BEHALF OF THE GREATER OCEAN CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

IN SUPPORT OF:

HB0551 – Broadband Expansion Incentive Act of 2023

Before:

House Ways & Means Committee

Hearing: 2/16/23 at 1:00 PM

The Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 750 regional businesses and job creators, **SUPPORTS** House Bill **HB0551 – Broadband Expansion Incentive Act of 2023**. This legislation will increase broadband investment in the state by removing a tax on broadband network machinery and equipment for the next five years. Additionally, it would waive state taxes on the once-in-a-generation federal investments companies can use to deploy broadband across Maryland, maximizing taxpayers' resources and hastening expansion of broadband availability and access especially in under resourced urban areas and hard-to-reach rural areas.

Passage of this legislation would help level the playing field for Marylanders in our region to compete in the digital economy, which is of critical importance to our members and our community to thrive in an evolving marketplace with increasing reliance on reliable, affordable connectivity.

The Ocean City Chamber respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE REPORT for HB0551**. Please feel free to contact the Chamber directly at 410-213-0144 should you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Amy Thompson
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Salvatore Fasano
Legislative Committee Chair
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