

Legislative Position: Support
House Bill 551
Broadband Expansion Incentive Act of 2023
House Ways and Means Committee

February 10, 2023

Dear Madame Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, with 650 member organizations representing over 40,000 employees, I am writing you in **SUPPORT** of **House Bill 551, Broadband Expansion Incentive Act of 2023**.

The proposed legislation builds on Maryland's efforts to bring more broadband to more Marylanders, especially those who have been on the wrong side of the digital divide. This legislation will increase broadband investment in the state by removing a tax on broadband network machinery and equipment for the next five years. This effort, combined with the programs to enhance individuals' digital skills and federal and state initiatives to make broadband more affordable, will help Marylanders better compete – and win – in the digital economy.

On behalf of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, and the continued economic health of Hagerstown, Maryland, Washington County, and the State of Maryland, we respectfully request a **FAVORABLE REPORT** on HB 551.

Sincerely,



Paul Frey, IOM
President and CEO