

Environment and Transportation Committee

HB 626 February 13, 2025

John Eidsness, Bowie MD

Governor Moore, State of the State 2025

*“I want Maryland to be the capital of quantum – And A.I. – And clean energy – And biotech –
... sectors that will define the economy of tomorrow.”*

Dig Once

Building robust fiber optic networks is necessary to move the data that makes these goals possible.

- **As these networks are built, they should follow Dig Once practices. In a single dig, Micro Conduit is installed containing at least 7 micro-ducts for future use and available to other carriers thru cost sharing arrangements with each other.**
- With Dig Once the build-out avoids repeated construction disruption.
- Every road cut is a future pothole. Dig Once practices will save money for the State of Maryland.
- Dig Once will also eliminate first provider monopolies in new or remodeled multi-tenant environments (MTE).



Public Rights of Way.

Today broadband carriers share power poles, concrete conduits, and cell phone towers in public rights-of-way and on private property. Carriers have always shared. With this Dig Once Bill they will use shared buried micro conduit and micro ducts.

Multi-Tenant Environments.

Having only one broadband provider in an MTE is a de facto monopoly. Residents can't get service from competitors. For new construction or major improvements in apartments, condos, or townhouse blocks building standards should require Dig Once for broadband carriers. "Major improvements" should include improvements to electric infrastructure to replace fossil fuel appliances or add vehicle charging. Micro-ducts should be in utility easements and telecommunications spaces. Landlords would manage spare micro-ducts just as today they manage telecom antennas on a roof.