



June 6, 2019

Senator Manning, Chair
Ways and Means Transportation/Economic Development subcommittee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: City of Eugene Support of HB 2173

Dear Chair Manning:

The City of Eugene has telecommunications policies establishing and advocating for improvements of local telecommunications services and infrastructure so that residents, visitors, businesses, and public institutions can have access to a full range of telecommunications services at reasonable, affordable rates.

The City is supportive of the Oregon Broadband Office program outlined in HB 2173, which is aimed at promoting inclusive broadband deployment in Oregon. Urban areas like Eugene still receive resident concerns that competition is not strong enough to drive prices down. But technology advancements are occurring, and we want our rural partners to benefit from enhanced broadband services that an Oregon Broadband Office can provide.

HB 2173 provides the necessary structure for establishing the Oregon Broadband Office, which will elevate the importance of Broadband and provide a location for developing a strategy for broadband deployment across Oregon. It also adds a public-at-large member to the Oregon Broadband Committee which can provide a very useful consumer perspective.

HB 2173 establishes the importance of Broadband to the underserved communities across Oregon that don't have the infrastructure in place to deploy high speed telecommunications services.

Thank you for your consideration of our support of HB 2173.

Sincerely,

Pam Berrian
Telecommunications Program Manager- (submitted electronically).