



Support HB 2613 and HB 2411

COVID-19 has highlighted the need for increased access to broadband in Oregon. With many Oregonians working from home, engaging in distance learning and telehealth and connecting with loved ones online instead of in-person, the utilization of broadband has increased exponentially over the last year. While COVID-19 has clearly shown that broadband is essential, many Oregonians still lack access. Wildfires have only made the situation more challenging as communities struggle to rebuild.

HB 2613

The deployment of broadband infrastructure is one of the state's key priorities to address the needs of students and others that learn and work from home. It is important to address the barriers that make it more difficult for broadband providers to invest in infrastructure. HB 2613 will do just that through three policy initiatives:

1. **Open trench notification** – When cities, counties or state agencies plan to do underground work, HB 2613 will require those entities to notify local broadband providers, giving them an opportunity to access those locations and install infrastructure.
2. **ODOT Permitting** – Allow ODOT to permit utility installations within their licensed corridor, including those on BLM and USFS land, to streamline the placement of broadband facilities.
3. **Simplifying Deployment** – HB 2613 will prohibit cities and counties from requiring providers to submit detailed plans concerning all other utilities in the area and the depth of the lines for those facilities when a broadband provider proposes a project that will be less than 1000 feet in length.

HB 2411

HB 2411 is a simple bill that will help providers expand access to broadband. Our state agencies are working collaboratively to rebuild many of Oregon's rural communities after the 2020 wildfires. This bill would require that when trenches are opened as part of that rebuilding process, the Oregon Department of Transportation must notify providers to allow for the installation of broadband infrastructure.

Please vote "YES" on HB 2613 and HB 2411 to help bring broadband to Oregon's unserved and underserved communities!

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