

Testimony of the NW Oregon Broadband Action Team
Submitted to the House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity

February 2, 2022

Representative John Lively, Chair
House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity

Dear Chair Lively and members of the committee:

The Northwest Oregon Broadband Action Team, a group of 32 public, private and nonprofit leaders across four Oregon counties, is deeply committed to and engaged in broadband improvement and expansion throughout Clatsop County, Columbia County, Tillamook County and western Washington County. Our region covers 24 jurisdictions and more than 25 schools and special districts, ranging from early education to Port authorities and represents more than 162,140 citizens. Collectively, we support HB 4092 with the -2 currently proposed amendments because we believe it supports the framework that Oregon needs to advance broadband to ALL of Oregon's communities.

While we support all sections of HB 4092 with the -2 amendments, we specifically support the diverse geographical representation requirements for the composition of the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council and respectfully request further amendments to the bill to ensure rural representation on the Council. It is critical for the future of the communities we represent that rural Oregonians have adequate opportunities to participate in decision-making and to provide input into how broadband programming and dollars are deployed in Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to provide this written testimony. Thank you even more so for your deliberate consideration of the vital interests and priorities expressed here as you deliberate on decisions to move forward.

The Northwest Oregon Broadband Action Team supports HB 4092 with the -2 proposed amendments and urges your committee to act to move this forward to full legislative consideration, and ultimately, for Oregon legislators to support and approve the Oregon Broadband bill.

Sincerely,

Lianne Thompson

Lianne Thompson
Clatsop County Commissioner, District 5
On behalf of the members of the
NW Oregon Broadband Action Team