



Marion County

OREGON

Board of Commissioners

February 21, 2023

(503) 588-5212
(503) 588-5237-FAX

Representative Janelle Bynum, Chair
Representative Lily Morgan, Vice-Chair
Representative Daniel Nguyen, Vice-Chair

RE: Marion County Supports HB 3201

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Colm Willis, Chair
Kevin Cameron
Danielle Bethell

Dear Chair Bynum, Vice-Chair Morgan, Vice-Chair Nguyen, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Small Business:

The Marion County Board of Commissioners support House Bill 3201, which will bring Oregon statute into alignment with federal rule, guidance, and best practices by eliminating unnecessary restrictions on the Broadband Fund. HB 3201 will allow hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funds to improve our broadband infrastructure and provide more equitable internet access across the state.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Jan Fritz

The COVID-19 pandemic emphasized the importance of highspeed and affordable internet access to our communities. It showed us that many communities across Oregon were either unserved or underserved when it came to reliable internet service that met today's technological demand. Addressing these shortfalls across the state is an immense challenge that will cost hundreds of millions of dollars to remedy. Passing HB 3201 will allow Oregon to receive the funding from the federal government that will allow us to bridge the gaps in service to our communities in need.

HB 3201 is critical to meeting the internet speed requirements that reflect the current technology needs in education and the workforce sector. Without the federal funds to expand more equitable internet services, we could be leaving many of our residents and communities behind. Without HB 3201, Oregon is at risk of losing out on hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funds for improving broadband infrastructure because of statutory limits on the Oregon Broadband Fund.

Thank you for continued work to support our communities. The Marion County Board of Commissioners urges the committee to votes yes on HB 3201.

Sincerely,

Colm Willis
Chair

Kevin Cameron

Danielle Bethell

BOC: JLS