

Submitter: LORI BULLIS

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Labor and Business

Measure: SB943

I support SB 943, the establishment of a Broadband Service Infrastructure Program within the Oregon Broadband Office for purpose of the offsetting cost of planning and developing high-speed broadband service infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas, what I term, broadband service deserts.

Working in an academic library, providing resource-sharing services to our patrons, I have witnessed the academic detriment to our online and distance education students because they live(d) in areas that are broadband service infrastructure deserts. Not having access to any or very low broadband service interrupted many of our student's ability to participate and/or complete their college coursework, especially during our recent COVID-19 pandemic.

By ensuring broadband service, its infrastructure to Oregon's unserved and underserved areas, and broadband service deserts, Oregon will support and provide the essential tools needed for the academic success of our higher education students and our K-12 student population as well.