

Submitter: Donna Torres

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal
and World Affairs

Measure: HB3201

Dear Committee,

I am a rural resident of Douglas County. I can speak first-hand about the lack of broadband service in my community. What has happened in the past is that DFN (Douglas Fastnet) trenched a pipeline of cable down the main road of the community of Azala and Glendale, however, they have left it up to the homeowners to connect to that pipeline, in which many residents live a mile, some many miles or more away from that pipeline, involving thousands of dollars to dig a trench, lay a PVC pipe for DFN to run a cable to their homes. Most homeowners in these rural towns don't have \$\$ laying around to afford to do that for DFN.

Even if a homeowner digs that trench and pays the thousands of dollars to go over and across roadways, driveways, other electrical lines, etc... most will not realize the cost of doing as such whereas the broadband company benefits for as long as that home exists, the service will be there and there will be no more \$\$ out of their pockets to make that happen.

I don't quite understand the philosophy of I'll dig down the main road, but leave it up to the homeowner to figure out how to get it from there to their home. We were told because our utilities are underground and the closest telephone pole was a mile away, we'd have to do it ourselves to get to that telephone pole. This would involve over a mile of trenching under a roadway, several driveways, and around current electrical. We just cannot afford that. It is worthless to us to have a service we cannot justify spending the \$\$ to connect to and pay for. Please READ the testimony from our Commissioners, they iterate our concerns very well.

Please VOTE NO on this. It is worthless unless you MAKE the company (in this case, DFN), take the service ALL the way to the home.

Thanks for considering.