



**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DATE: May 2, 2023

TO: Senator James Manning, Chair  
Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs

FROM: Kate Denison, Deputy Legislative Director  
Oregon Department of Justice

SUBJECT: HB 3201 – Maximizing Broadband Funding for Oregon Communities

This testimony is presented in support of HB 3201.

The Attorney General and Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) support measures to ensure all Oregon communities have full access to broadband services.

**HB 3201 Ensures Full Access to Federal Funding**

In the past several years, Oregon has made an ongoing commitment to providing broadband access to the most unserved and underserved communities through the state. In 2020, the Oregon Legislature created the Oregon Broadband Fund to focus on providing broadband services to households that desperately need service. The statutes around this fund contain certain definitions and restrictions on certain Public Utility Commission funding that were designed to focus scarce state resources on households that need it most.

During the pandemic, Congress authorized new funding sources for broadband projects through the ARPA Capital Project Fund, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and the Broadband, Equity, Access & Deployment program under which Oregon will be eligible to receive over \$100 million to continue improving broadband service and infrastructure throughout the state. However, in order to ensure Oregon can access all potential funding, we need HB 3201 to revise statutes on the books that currently conflict with federal guidance for implementing federal broadband programs and eliminate any risk that may impact Oregon's federal allocation of broadband money.

This bill aims to bring Oregon statute into alignment with federal rules, guidance, and best practices by eliminating unnecessary restrictions on the Broadband Fund. It will ensure that our state can continue serving unserved, underserved, and tribal communities and improve digital equity in historically marginalized communities in Oregon.

**Contact:**

Kate Denison, Deputy Legislative Director, 971-599-9851, [kate.e.denison@doj.state.or.us](mailto:kate.e.denison@doj.state.or.us)

Kimberly McCullough, Legislative Director, 503-931-0418, [kimberly.mccullough@doj.state.or.us](mailto:kimberly.mccullough@doj.state.or.us)