

MIKE McLANE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER
DISTRICT 55



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 2, 2015

Public Utility Commission of Oregon
201 High St. SE, Ste. 1007
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Docket AR 592 – Temp. Rules to Implement SB 611 (2015), Amended by HB 2485 (2015)

Dear Commissioners,

I was a part of a team of legislators that negotiated the language for SB 611 (2015), as amended by HB 2485(2015). There were three main goals to that legislation. First, provide greater certainty to industry by bringing clarity to the law. Second, incentivize the creation of good, private sector jobs in Oregon. Third, encourage high-speed Internet access throughout Oregon, in both urban and rural areas of our state.

I have discussed with House Revenue Committee Chairman Rep. Phil Barnhart his concerns with the proposed commission rules, and reviewed his written submissions. I agree with him that all rulemaking related to SB 611 needs to encourage — not discourage — high speed Internet access to both rural and urban Oregonians. I share his concern that the proposed rules may lead to a decrease in high-speed Internet offerings in rural Oregon. That result would not serve Oregon and was not the intent of the Legislature in passing SB 611. Rural Oregonians must have high speed Internet access at affordable rates and the intent of SB 611 as amended by HB 2485 was to incentivize providers to offer just such access.

It is my sincere hope that you will take this expression of legislative intent fully into account while drafting these rules.

Sincerely,

Mike McLane