



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

March 30, 2023

Timothy G. Sekerak

Chief Clerk of the House

State Capitol Building

Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation – HB 3201 A

Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I am writing to express my opposition vote on HB 3201 A. I believe that this bill will give more authority to an agency that has been ineffective with the authority that they have had for the past 3 years. When the Broadband office was started there was millions of dollars, now there are hundreds of millions. At the beginning, and throughout the past 3 years, the agency has had the opportunity to make rules and set up the funds. In fact, we were hopeful that the office would do so and identify where the connectivity needs were.

The issue I find in this bill is that it removes the definitions of “unserved” and “underserved” which leaves that to the office to determine. Currently the preference is to grant first to unserved and second to underserved. They could have made these distinctions with the maps provided to them 3 years ago but now I believe oversight is necessary and the legislature can now make the decision about where the money needs to go. The agency has taken an unacceptable approach and therefore I have concerns about expanding their rulemaking authority.

Best,  
Rep. Bobby Levy, HD 58