



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 30, 2023

Chief Clerk Tim Sekerak
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on HB 3201A

HB 3201A's intent is to see high speed, broadband access expanded all across Oregon — to ensure unserved and underserved communities get the high-speed internet they need. However, my opposition to HB 3201A is not to prevent Oregon from benefiting from such Federal Funding, which will be substantial. Instead my No vote was simply **to let the Senate know** that I believe there is more work to be done.

In its present form I believe HB 3201A removes important statutory safeguards to ensure taxpayer money is spent to provide broadband access to Oregonians who otherwise will not receive it. If I believed the House had the appetite to address my concerns I would've made a motion on the floor to send this bill back to committee.

I think this bill could be improved by making the following two changes:

First: The requirement that funds be prioritized to projects in unserved or under-served locations, **must align with federal guidance**. I think HB 3201 needs to be crystal clear concerning this policy to the Broadband Office. Another way of stating this is to say, HB 3201A should clearly define "unserved" and "underserved" locations by aligning those definitions with those used by federal programs.

Second, this legislation should include a challenge process that clarifies that **if a location is successfully challenged, funds will not be awarded for that location**. I believe that process should specify the application itself need not be rejected in whole — just the challenged location. This is a process that benefits both applicants and taxpayers.

It is my job as a legislator to provide clear statutory direction and legislative intent. In my opinion, HB 3201A still falls short of those objectives. I look forward to the possibility of voting YES on a concurrence measure, after the Senate has addressed these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Werner Reschke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

E. WERNER RESCHKE

State Representative, HD 55

The Crater Lake District