

David Brock Smith

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Committees

Energy and Environment

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OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE
900 COURT ST NE SALEM, OREGON 97301

VOTE EXPLANATION

June 26, 2020

Timothy G. Sekerak

Chief Clerk of the House

State Capitol Building, H271

Salem, OR 97301

RE: NO Vote Explanation on SB 1603

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I voted NO on SB 1603 for the following reasons and more... I have long been an advocate for expanding broadband in Oregon for our residents, especially our rural communities, and have done a lot of work in these areas in the legislature and in my former work at the county and local levels.

However, this bill has a number of issues. It does not follow the constitution regarding needing the 3/5ths vote to raise revenue, nor did it originate in the House as required as well. The E-Board recently allocated \$20 million dollars to broadband services in the state. The federal Trump Administration has also recently allocated billions of dollars to expanding rural broadband across the country.

Finally, this is a new tax on the people of Oregon and, in this time of Covid, Oregonians are hurting financially and will be for some time.

Respectfully,

David Brock Smith

Oregon House of Representatives

District 01

Curry, Coos, Douglas & Josephine Counties

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