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LARRY C. STUTTS
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1/27/2021

COMMITTEES:
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FINANCE & TAXATION GENERAL FUND
CONFIRMATIONS
JUDICIARY

Maureen Neighbors
Alabama Department of Economic & Community Affairs (ADECA)
401 Adams Avenue Suite 560
Montgomery, AL 36104

Dear Maureen:

I am writing to make you aware of the high regard I have for the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund Program and with respect for appropriate criteria to be met, I convey my support for strong consideration of Comcast's application for a grant to expand broadband access in Colbert County, including the Nitrate City community, passing along Foster Mill Road and Spout Springs Road, and the incorporated Town of Leighton. I live in an area of Colbert County that does not have high speed internet access and I know personally the importance of this.

Although there have been great strides to address the lack of broadband access in Alabama, this continues to be a common complaint across the state, especially in the more rural areas. The grant program administered by ADECA is a key pathway in addressing a challenge which constitutes a barrier to young children accessing educational resources and to companies in need of access to broadband to conduct and grow business. Such a grant would allow Comcast to extend its plant in Colbert County and provide advanced services, including up to 200/10M bps internet speeds, to residents, businesses, and community anchors in unserved areas. This plant extension would provide the same network and capacity that is currently available in Muscle Shoals and served areas of Colbert County.

As a thorough review of the Comcast grant application is conducted and knowing the impact that new broadband access would have in the rural communities of Colbert County from an economic, education, and quality of life perspective, I convey my support to the grant should the appropriate criteria be met.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Stutts", is written over a horizontal line.

Larry Stutts, DVM, MD
Alabama State Senator, District 6
LCS/al