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Testimony on HB 2462 – Authorizing the Use of Publicly Owned Dark Fiber

February 7, 2018

Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIRMAN: WATER AND ENVIRONMENT  
GOVERNMENT, TECHNOLOGY  
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RESOURCES BUDGET

Mr. Chairman, Committee Members:

HB 2462 requires state and local governments to make available access to dark fiber by private sector broadband providers on a cost-plus basis. Government entities may retain sufficient dark fiber for reasonably anticipated 50-year fiber needs.

Cost-plus means the prorated cost to install the fiber and supporting equipment plus a reasonable lease payment for use of the fiber.

This bill recognizes that delivering broadband to un-served and under-served Kansans can be more cost-effectively achieved if telecommunications can access available fiber, rather than installing their own new equipment. Local and state governments are financially remunerated for the pro-rated cost of the dark fiber and lease payments.

The intent is to make backbone broadband services that benefit rural residents more affordable and therefore more available.

Mr. Chairman, Committee Members, thank you for your attention. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.