



WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony of Sandra Rupp, Ness County Commissioner
Before the House Committee on Energy Utilities and Telecommunications
In Support of House Bill No. 2701
February 14, 2018**

Member Counties

Barber

Barton

Clark

Ellis

Finney

Ford

Gove

Grant

Gray

Hamilton

Harper

Haskell

Hodgeman

Kearny

Lane

Logan

Meade

Morton

Ness

Norton

Rawlins

Rice

Russell

Rush

Scott

Seward

Sheridan

Sherman

Stanton

Stevens

Thomas

Trego

Wallace

Wichita

Chairman Seiwert and Members of the Committee:

Kansas Legislative Policy Group (KLPG) would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today. KLPG is a non-partisan, non-profit organization comprised of elected commissioners representing the collective interests of 35 rural Kansas counties. We appreciate the opportunity to submit remarks in support of House Bill No. 2701.

House Bill No. 2701 seeks to establish the **Statewide Broadband Expansion Task Force** to evaluate the needs of all Kansans for broadband services and infrastructure deployment in our communities.

We are encouraged that the legislature has determined this issue to be a priority that must be addressed.

KLPG endorses this proposal because high-speed broadband access provides a vital link for our citizens and businesses, and deployment is deficient in many areas of the state.

In our rural communities, business is critical to our residents and the growth of our communities. The lack of sufficient and efficient broadband services is a barrier that threatens essential growth.

Since the demands for internet access vary greatly across the state, KLPG suggests that representation on the task force for both cities and counties be expanded to include both rural and urban service areas. This will allow for comprehensive discussion of broadband services.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present written testimony to the Committee. I encourage you to support House Bill No. 2701.

Sandra Rupp
County Commissioner
Ness County
KLPG President