

Testimony of RG FIBER Support for HB2701 Before the Senate Commerce Committee March 9, 2018

RG FIBER is an entrepreneurial venture that provides internet, phone and video services via an all-fiber network. Our innovative technology and hard-work have made it possible to affordably bring gigabit fiber to small-town America. Since 2014, we've invested millions to bring gigabit internet to businesses and residents in Baldwin City, rural Douglas County, Eudora, and Lawrence, Kansas. We are working to expand our network to other communities across the State, but like all growing businesses, and especially true in capital-intensive industries, access to capital governs our growth.

We believe that a 21st-century communications infrastructure is critical to the future of our small-town communities and deployment of reliable, extremely fast, and affordable networks can't happen soon enough.

There are other entreprenuerial ventures in Kansas that are bringing gigabit-capable broadband to their communities via an all fiber network like RG FIBER. However, as currently written, these entrepreneurs and innovators have no voice and no representation on this Task Force.

RG FIBER supports HB 2701, however, we strongly advise the committee to add an 18th voting member to represent the hard-working innovators and entreprenuers in our great State who are currently bringing gigabit-capable broadband via an all-fiber network.

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