Date

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Re: Broadband Amendment

Dear:

My school district currently obtains broadband service from the Miami Valley Educational Computer Association (MVECA), an Information Technology Center (ITC) that is part of the Ohio Education Computer Network (OECN). MVECA provides broadband, and many other shared technology services, to 31 public school systems and other local governmental agencies. MVECA’s services are a critical part of our district’s operations and our ability to provide students with safe and affordable access to essential online resources. **Unfortunately, amendment SC4546-1, which was added to the Senate’s version of the state operating budget, would effectively put MVECA and the OECN out of business and increase the cost of school technology implementations and connectivity across the state.**

**I request that the General Assembly completely remove the broadband amendment inserted into HB 110.** This amendment would force all governmental broadband systems in the state to shut down and cease operations, squandering years of work and investment in network development that has enabled MVECA to save its members hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. The broadband amendment would force local school districts to pay more for internet access because they would no longer be permitted to work together, through the OECN and ITC, to reduce connectivity costs. Additionally, the amendment would reduce the numbers of broadband options for all Ohioans, eliminate telehealth programming, shut down school and library networks, halt various ongoing connectivity projects for remote learners, and stifle economic development initiatives centered around broadband. It is imperative that limitations on broadband development be removed from all proposed legislation for the economic health of all Ohioans.

Thank you,

Name

Title

Organization