



THE CITY OF
TALLMADGE
HISTORY MOVING FORWARD

DAVID G. KLINE
MAYOR

DKLINE@TALLMADGE-OHIO.ORG

PHONE: (330) 633-0857

June 15, 2021

TO: Ohio Senate and House Leadership, Governor DeWine, Lt. Governor Husted

The Ohio Senate Omnibus Budget amendment effectively banning the creation of a municipal broadband network would identify Ohio as the first state in a decade to erect barriers to the establishment and expansion of municipal broadband networks. This last-minute amendment will prohibit municipalities from extending broadband services in its cities and prevent them from accessing designated federal funds from the *American Rescue Plan* to help fund it.

This amendment not only threatens our state's digital diversity but is designed to prevent political subdivisions from building and operating networks to meet the connectivity challenges of its residents. It would preclude broadband networks from being built in all but the most remote regions of the state, restricting municipal networks to serve only those households with *no* broadband service whatsoever. This limitation will stop municipal investments from correcting obvious market failures.

Obvious to all, this amendment will monopolize an essential service in the hands of a small number of private companies who have consistently failed to provide our residents affordable, reliable and sufficient services.

Every elected official in Tallmadge City government (Mayor, Law Director, Finance Director, President of Council and 6 Councilmembers) joins me in opposing this amendment. We ask that as duly-elected representatives of our state you will eliminate this amendment and recognize the value in enhancing, rather than prohibiting, the expansion of broadband services to our schools, businesses and 18,000+ residents.

Sincerely,

Mayor David G. Kline
CITY OF TALLMADGE

Law Director Megan Raber
Finance Director Mollie Gilbride
President of Council/Ward 4 Carol Kilway

Ward 1 Council Craig Sisak
Ward 2 Council Rebecca Allman
Ward 3 Council Jonathon Bollas
At-Large Council James Donovan
At-Large Council Chris Grimm
At-Large Council Dennis Loughry