

Village Council

Mrs. Laura Cochran
President Pro Tempore
Mr. Tracy Douglas
Ms. Anne Snyder
Ms. Heather Anderson
Mr. Jon Strittmatter
Mrs. Nicki Coontz

1921 - 2021



Richard Cole, Jr.
Mayor

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Ms. Tracy Fast
Village Administrator

Megan Pitman
Fiscal Officer

Benjamin G. Chojnacki
Law Director

Mr. Brett Reinbolt
Fire Chief

Mr. Roy Smith
Police Chief

June 17, 2021

Dear Legislator,


The Ohio Senate Omnibus Budget Amendment includes language that would modify Chapter 122 of the Ohio Revised Code to prevent political subdivisions from providing broadband service. Public ownership of a reliable, high-speed broadband network is critical to ensure that the residents and businesses of Ohio can receive reliable and affordable broadband to prosper and compete in the current economy. I am writing with the hope that you will vote to oppose the proposed amendment.

Accessible and affordable broadband provides for critical communication between public and safety services, competitiveness of our businesses, and an ability to attract and retain employment opportunities in our communities. Broadband will help provide equal opportunity for all socio-economic backgrounds to learn and compete. Advances in technology will be available for all of Ohio and make our state active in our global economy.

The Public-Owned Broadband Restriction Amendment is an infringement upon the "home rule" authority of municipalities and charter counties that use such authority to provide for their residents. This Amendment allows a small number of private companies to monopolize an essential service they have failed to adequately and affordably provide.

The education, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Summit County require the unfettered ability of the County and its political subdivisions, including the Village of Lakemore, to provide reliable and affordable broadband services at levels that ensure the residents and businesses can participate in the current and future digital economy. The Village of Lakemore requests that you oppose the Public-Owned Broadband Restriction Amendment contained in the Ohio Senate Omnibus Budget Amendment to the extent that would modify Chapter 122 of the Ohio Revised Code (specifically to add Sections 122.4090, 122.4091, 122.4093, 122.4095, 122.4097, and 122.4098) to restrict public-owned broadband networks.

Respectfully,


Richard Cole, Jr.
Mayor