



Sen. Jack Tate, Chair
Senate Business, Labor and Technology Committee
Colorado State Capitol
200 East Colfax
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Senator Tate and other distinguished members of the Senate Business, Labor and Technology Committee,

On behalf of the Economic Development Council of Colorado (EDCC) and its more than 200 member organizations from rural and urban communities around the State, we would like to indicate our support for SB17-042. We support this bill for the following reasons:

1. Broadband is a utility which is as important as water and electricity. Businesses that have access to broadband will thrive, and those that do not, will find a new place where there is access.
2. Private broadband providers are not able to provide service to all businesses, communities, or parts of communities. In order to help bridge the gap of access, communities should have the ability to support the deployment of broadband.
3. SB05-152 limits local rights of communities to be able to help meet the broadband needs of a community both directly and indirectly. The lack of this flexibility can lead to increased cost to the private sector because they cannot partner with local community assets to bring down cost.
4. SB17-042 opens the door to create partnerships between private broadband providers and communities. In many cases these partnerships would not be possible without support from both the public and private sectors.

As a part of the EDCC legislative platform, we believe that it is our role to help ensure access to utilities and **broadband for predictable and reliable services to businesses in rural and urban areas**. SB17-042 would be a significant and important piece of legislation that will help Colorado achieve that imperative economic development goal.

For a more competitive Colorado, we ask that you support SB17-042. For more information, please contact the EDCC's lobbyist, Jennifer Cassell at Jennifer.cassell@gmail.com or (785) 393-0472.

Respectfully,

John Hall
EDCC Board Chair