

August 31, 2020

CASE # 2020-00215

Members of the Kentucky Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 615
211 Sowers Blvd.
Frankfort, KY 40602

Re: Broadband in Western Kentucky

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing this letter to express my complete support of Kenergy's broadband deployment project. It is my belief that regulated electric cooperatives must be allowed to provide high-speed broadband service options to their membership, just as municipals and TVA cooperatives are currently able to provide. Our community has very limited, if any, availability to reliable, high-speed internet and very little to no financial means through which to rectify the issue. This critical infrastructure is essential to business, healthcare, education, and quality of life; not only to Crittenden County but also all rural areas served by Kenergy.

The provision of broadband services to rural areas is most definitely the modern-day equivalent of rural electrification in the 1930's. Electric cooperatives have existing infrastructure in place throughout our region, which makes a perfect fit for becoming a broadband service provider.

In closing I strongly suggest this esteemed body approve Kenergy's request for a waiver, which will expedite this project in a timely manner, ensuring electric cooperatives can secure financing for the buildout. Our rural communities depend on your keen sense of responsibility to ensure everyone is provided an opportunity to be provided with high-speed internet availability from a trusted and financially sound entity such as Kenergy. Kenergy's membership has a voice and that voice is asking for this service to which you can approve. Thank you for your consideration of this important project and I look forward to learning of your approval very soon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry A. Newcom, Judge Executive