

STATE OF TENNESSEE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



BETH HARWELL
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

October 28, 2014

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I am writing in regards to the petition filed on July 14, 2014, by the Electric Power Board (EPB) of Chattanooga, Tennessee requesting "removal of the barrier to deployment of advanced telecommunications capability" that is stipulated in Section 7-52-601 of the Tennessee Code Annotated. Essentially, this petition asks the FCC to overturn Tennessee state law that prohibits EPB from offering Internet broadband and video programming services outside of its electric service territory.

It is my belief that these actions fall squarely within the purview of the Tennessee General Assembly and the elected legislators, acting on behalf of their constituents. I do not think it prudent that the federal government act on this request. Doing so would insert the FCC into the economic and fiscal affairs of our state and would set a precedent that I find concerning.

I believe the proper venue for this continuing discussion lies with the Tennessee General Assembly and respectfully ask that you allow it to remain there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beth Harwell".

Beth Harwell
Speaker of the House
Tennessee General Assembly