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Laws that restrict or prevent municipal broadband enable telecommunication companies to have a monopoly on one of the greatest needs most rural communities have in the 21st century. We need the FCC to act quickly to remove a TN state law preventing broadband competition. Where many of my family members live it is impossible to get reliable fast broadband. Many educators have notated how this holds students behind academically, many businesses require constant contact with their employees, business cannot grow and prosper because of the lack of networking infrastructure to bring their companies the latest network technology. This type of situation prevents employees from being able to live and support rural communities because their requirements cannot be fulfilled in many areas in southeast, TN.

I firmly support Chairman Wheeler's desire to repeal state and local laws in any area that prevents broadband expansion in any shape, way and form. Chattanooga's EPB, Cleveland Utilities, VEC or any other municipal company should be allowed to expand their infrastructure and support community's telecommunications needs. While I do support the free market broadband infrastructure is not setup to truly support a free market system anyway companies own certain territories and in rural areas only a monopoly exists as it is. Broadband today is what power was just a few years ago when or Municipal utilities were created because of the need for electricity everywhere. While it is still legal for municipally owned utilities to work together and provide services to communities when it comes to power. It apparently is illegal to allow companies to expand and work together to make our community's better. Many of the municipally owned utilities in my area want EPB to come to their area because they cannot afford to do it on their own. Therefore it is extremely important that the FCC steps in to allow true competition with municipal broadband.