



HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MAYOR
JIM M. COPPINGER

August 28, 2014

Via Electronic Submission

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: FCC Docket No. 14-116, Petition of Electric Power Board of Chattanooga ("EPB")

Members of the Commission:

I have the privilege to serve as Mayor of Hamilton County, Tennessee, which includes the City of Chattanooga and nine other, smaller municipalities. The County is approximately 542 square miles in size with a population of nearly 350,000.

EPB's gigabit fiber system is important to our attraction and retention of businesses and provides an important resource for entrepreneurial growth in Hamilton County. EPB's fiber permits Hamilton County residents and businesses to fully participate in and to lead our nation's innovation economy.

The Electric Power Board of Chattanooga ("EPB") provides electric service to most, but not all, of Hamilton County. As reflected in the map attached as Exhibit 2 to EPB's Petition, EPB's electric service territory does not include a small area in the northwest corner of Hamilton County and a larger area in the northeast corner of the County. Under present state law, EPB cannot provide its broadband services in these two areas, which total about 15% of Hamilton County's land area.

High-speed broadband is important to the continued growth of all areas of Hamilton County. For example, the northeast corner of County, which EPB cannot serve under present law, is only a few miles away from multi-billion dollar investments in Hamilton County by Volkswagen and in adjacent Bradley County by Wacker Chemical Corporation. This area is poised for significant growth, and high-speed broadband is an important infrastructure needed to support that growth.

EPB's gigabit fiber has provided most residents and businesses of Hamilton County an important infrastructure choice. The grant of EPB's Petition will provide the chance for all of Hamilton County to have that choice.

I respectfully urge you to grant EPB's Petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim M. Coppinger".

Jim M. Coppinger
County Mayor