

March 29, 2022

To the Honorable Kathleen Hochul, Governor of New York,

We, the undersigned organizations, urge the New York Legislature to retain language for public authorities that allows them to lease excess capacity of fiber optic and other broadband technologies to help spur investment in better Internet access to residents and businesses.

Many entities - especially public power companies - install excess capacity when building network capacity because the costs of extra fiber strands are *de minimus* but allow both for future expansion as well as potential leases to help achieve public policy goals of improved Internet access and digital equity.

Allowing ISPs - both traditional and non-traditional - to access these existing lines can dramatically speed progress for new networks that are needed to reach those currently unserved as well as those whose needs have not been met by existing networks.

Respectfully,

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