

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

SB247

Bill as Introduced

SB 247 - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-2957

12/04

SENATE BILL **247**

AN ACT relative to broadband infrastructure bonds.

SPONSORS: Sen. Ricciardi, Dist 9; Sen. Hennessey, Dist 1; Sen. Avard, Dist 12; Sen. Ward,
Dist 8; Rep. Plett, Hills. 6

COMMITTEE: Election Law and Municipal Affairs

ANALYSIS

This bill authorizes a municipality or county to issue bonds or notes for the financing of broadband infrastructure projects for any location within a municipality.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in *bold italics*.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

AN ACT relative to broadband infrastructure bonds.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Municipal Finance; Purpose of Issue of Bonds or Notes. Amend RSA 33:3 to read as follows:

2 33:3 Purpose of Issue of Bonds or Notes. A municipality or county may issue its bonds or notes
3 for the acquisition of land, for economic development, for planning relative to public facilities, for the
4 construction, reconstruction, alteration, and enlargement or purchase of public buildings, for other
5 public works or improvements, or for the financing of improvements, of a permanent nature
6 including broadband infrastructure as defined in RSA 38:38, I(e), [~~to serve any location within a~~
7 ~~municipality unserved by broadband as defined in RSA 38:38, I(e)] for the purchase of departmental
8 equipment of a lasting character, and for the payment of judgments. The issuance of such bonds or
9 notes shall include, but not be limited to, public-private partnerships involving capital
10 improvements, loans, financing, and guarantees. The public benefit in any public-private
11 partnership must outweigh any benefit accruing to a private party. Bonds or notes for the purposes
12 of economic development may be issued only after the governing body of the municipality or county
13 has held hearings and presented the public benefit findings to the public and after such issuance has
14 been approved by the legislative body. A municipality or county shall not issue bonds or notes to
15 provide for the payment of expenses for current maintenance and operation except as otherwise
16 specifically provided by law.~~

17 2 Municipal Finance; Issue of Bonds for Preliminary Expenses. Amend RSA33:3-c, I(e) to read
18 as follows:

19 (e) Broadband infrastructure as defined in RSA 38:38, I(e) constructed to serve any
20 locations within a municipality [~~unserved by broadband as defined in RSA 38:38, I(e)].~~

21 3 Municipal Finance; Broadband Infrastructure Bonds. Amend RSA 33:3-g, I to read as follows:

22 I. A municipality or communications district formed under RSA 53-G may issue bonds for
23 the purpose of financing the development, construction, reconstruction, renovation, improvement,
24 and acquisition of broadband infrastructure [~~in any locations within a municipality unserved by~~
25 ~~broadband as defined in RSA 38:38, I(e)]. Without limiting the foregoing, broadband infrastructure
26 may be the subject of public-private partnerships established in accordance with the provisions of
27 RSA 33:3.~~

28 4 Municipal Finance; Broadband Infrastructure Bonds. Amend RSA 33:3-g, III to read as
29 follows:

30 III. A municipality, county, or communications district shall not issue bonds for the purpose
31 of financing the development, construction, reconstruction, renovation, improvement, and acquisition

1 of broadband infrastructure in any location within a municipality, county, or communications
2 district ~~[unserved by broadband as defined in RSA 38:38, I(e)]~~ unless a request for information has
3 been issued, at a minimum, to all providers serving the issuing community in accordance with RSA
4 33:3-g, IV and such providers have been given 30 days to respond to the request. The request for
5 information shall include, but is not limited to, information identifying addresses within a
6 municipality, county, or communications district, served by broadband as defined in RSA 38:38, I(c).
7 A response shall meet the requirements of this paragraph if it includes, in either map or spreadsheet
8 form, street level information identifying the first and last serviceable address. After completing,
9 issuing, and receiving responses to such request for information, a municipality, county, or
10 communications district may issue a request for proposals for the purpose of engaging in a public-
11 private partnership pursuant to RSA 33:3 or RSA 33-B for the deployment of broadband
12 infrastructure, as defined in RSA 38:38, I(e), and the provision of broadband service as defined in
13 RSA 38:38, I(f). A municipality, county, or communications district may select a proposal based on
14 criteria including, but not limited to, provider ability to deploy, manage, and maintain a broadband
15 network. Requests for proposals shall include, in either map or spreadsheet form, street level
16 information identifying the first and last serviceable address. A municipality, county, or
17 communications district may determine that no provider has met the criteria included in the request
18 for proposals and may issue bonds for purposes pursuant to RSA 33:3 and RSA 33-B, including but
19 not limited to, open networks. If a broadband provider does not respond to a request for information
20 pursuant to this paragraph, the locations served by that broadband provider shall be considered
21 unserved, unless those locations are served by a broadband provider who responded to that
22 municipality's request for information.

23 5 Municipal Electric, Gas, or Water Systems; Broadband Access. Amend RSA 38:38, I(e) to read
24 as follows:

25 (e) "Broadband infrastructure" means all equipment and facilities, *servicing any*
26 *location within a municipality*, including all changes, modifications, and expansions to existing
27 facilities, as well as the customer premises equipment used to provide broadband, as defined in
28 subparagraph (c), and any software integral to or related to the operations, support, facilitation, or
29 interconnection of such equipment.

30 6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Committee Minutes

SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE

Election Law and Municipal Affairs

Sen James Gray, Chair
Sen Regina Birdsell, Vice Chair
Sen Ruth Ward, Member
Sen Donna Soucy, Member
Sen Rebecca Perkins Kwoka, Member

Date: January 20, 2022

HEARINGS

Wednesday

01/26/2022

Election Law and Municipal Affairs	State House 103	1:00 p.m.
(Name of Committee)	(Place)	(Time)
1:00 p.m. SB 247	relative to broadband infrastructure bonds.	
1:15 p.m. SB 334-LOCAL	enabling municipalities to establish a vacant building registry.	
1:30 p.m. SB 395	relative to the broadband matching grant initiative.	
1:45 p.m. HB 54	apportioning county commissioner districts.	
1:45 p.m. HB 55	apportioning delegates to state party conventions.	

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

Sponsors:

SB 247

Sen. Ricciardi
Rep. Plett

Sen. Hennessey

Sen. Avard

Sen. Ward

SB 334-LOCAL

Sen. Prentiss
Sen. Perkins Kwoka
Rep. Stavis

Sen. Watters
Sen. Soucy
Rep. Stapleton

Sen. Whitley
Sen. Carson

Sen. Sherman
Rep. Cloutier

SB 395

Sen. Kahn
Sen. Watters
Sen. Perkins Kwoka
Rep. Bucu

Sen. Bradley
Sen. Cavanaugh
Sen. Hennessey
Rep. Porter

Sen. Sherman
Sen. Prentiss
Rep. Maneval

Sen. Whitley
Sen. Rosenwald
Rep. Weber

HB 54

Rep. B. Griffin

HB 55

Rep. B. Griffin

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

James P. Gray
Chairman

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee
Tricia Melillo 271-3077

SB 247, relative to broadband infrastructure bonds.

Hearing Date: January 26, 2022

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Gray, Birdsell, Ward and Soucy

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Perkins Kwoka

Bill Analysis: This bill authorizes a municipality or county to issue bonds or notes for the financing of broadband infrastructure projects for any location within a municipality.

Sponsors:

Sen. Ricciardi
Sen. Ward

Sen. Hennessey
Rep. Plett

Sen. Avard

Who supports the bill: Senator Ruth Ward, Senator Erin Hennessey, Representative Maneval, Margaret Byrnes (NHMA), Bill Duschatko, Jim Isaak, Sandra Straus, William Herman, Rick Sawyer, Kathleen Hoey

Who opposes the bill: Chris Rand, Maura Weston, Chris Hodgdon, Rick Fabrizio

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Denise Ricciardi

- SB 247 will empower municipalities and counties to finance broad band infrastructure projects in any location within the municipality.
- Funds would be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes.
- She sponsored this in order to enable communities throughout NH to provide their residents with access to high speed broadband connections.
- In recent years the legislature has acted favorably in supporting broadband expansion.
- This includes legislation focused on assisting smaller rural communities.
- The policies enacted have manifested in tangible projects each with its own success story.
- These success stories have been made possible by legislative actions which authorized towns to raise project funds through bond offerings.
- Consistent with previously enacted policies, SB 247 will represent an additional important advance and will build upon the states broadband related programs.
- Similar to previous legislation which focused on small rural areas this legislation would provide access for all communities to issue bonds to finance broadband projects.
- SB 247 will foster the continued development of broadband infrastructure without the need for any state funding.
- It is local control legislation consistent with New Hampshire's long standing tradition.
- She is convinced that many communities will strongly consider exercising the new and exciting authority offered to them.
- Senator Gray commented that throughout the bill legislation has been taken out that this committee put in there to protect the investment of the businesses that went in and puts the municipalities in direct competition with those providers and asked if that was her intent.
 - Senator Ricciardi replied by asking what is wrong with competition and stated that in her district, the rural town of Dublin is in better shape than her bigger town of Bedford.

They have faster speeds and more opportunities than the bigger towns because the bigger towns are tied down and locked due to that legislation.

Margaret Byrnes – NH Municipal Association

- This legislation creates an additional tool for municipalities to expand broadband.
- The previous legislation was only for areas unserved which means there are only a limited number of municipalities that can take advantage of the program.
- This bill creates an opportunity for those municipalities that do not have it now
- In Bedford they are considered served so they cannot access broadband infrastructure bonds to improve internet speeds.
- One of the issues has been the difficulty in mapping.
- Towns have been frustrated in trying to get the information they need to be able to map the served and unserved areas.
- Taking out the mapping requirement will help all communities that want to improve broadband services.
- It is unlikely that communities will overbuild as it is not light lifting to expand broadband through the bonding process.
- If this is adopted she can see this used effectively by those communities that are underserved.
- With our continued reliance on internet municipalities are looking at ways to improve their speed and reliability.

Bill Duschatko - NHMA

- Bedford is getting involved because they are responding to the input of a survey taken almost four years ago.
- The survey was simple and just asked if they were satisfied with the service that was being provided in Bedford.
- It was given to about 2,000 people and they received 600 responses.
- Out of those responses, 527 were very dissatisfied with the service that they were being provided by a number of different providers.
- The comments were lack of speed, lack of promised speed, lack of reliability, lack of customer service and a feeling that they were captive to the providers.
- They contacted multiple organizations in the south west part of the state that were working on solving their own access problems.
- They have no intention of going to their own competitive municipal internet.
- The whole south east area of NH, from Concord to Somersworth to Seabrook to Jaffrey, contain a number of communities that were prohibited from even exploring the opportunities of finding different ways to solve service problems.
- This is because prior legislation has prohibited towns, that have some type of marginal service, from issuing bonds.
- There is a lot of work before that idea of issuing a bond for the expansion of internet infrastructure is actuality.
- It takes years to get the engineering correct, and most importantly it takes a full vote or buy in of the community.
- In Bedford it takes a super majority vote to pass a bond like this.
- There are a lot of controls within the community.
- Not having the option of looking at improvement sets them back to the nineteenth century.
- They need local control of things being done locally.
- Criticized by the providers in the industry is that legislation and people in charge of administering the programs have recognized that the 25/3 limit is totally inadequate.
- They have pushed that there is a minimum of 100/20 which is marginal of the speeds they are seeing now.
- The broadband internet department in the BEA has been tasked to find out what is correct mapping.

- Every person should have a right to have access and not because one house or area in the town the provider claims gets low service but the rest of the town gets nothing.
- The US Congress seeing that this is such a mess, have taken the authority out of the FCC and put it into the hands of the Dept. of Commerce.
- He believes it does not take out the competitive nature it is just taking out the served or underserved delineation.
- The providers have been unwilling to improve upon the 25/3 speeds without some public participation.
- Providers have made investments over the years but they have also been very much rewarded for the investments.

Henry Underwood – South West Region Planning Commission

- As a rural region in the Monadnock area they lack internet access to high quality internet connections.
- Broadband bonding has had a 100% success rate when put before voters.
- Since 2019, 18 of their 34 communities have authorized municipal broadband bonds.
- Combined with private investment this amounted to over \$40 million of improvements and universal access in those communities.
- This leaves a large number of communities which may be left behind.
- This is because of the unserved criteria of the statute.
- The process for communities to compile this information is complicated by the number of providers, lack of response and the availability of data.
- Removing the requirement would simplify the process and increase access to this financing tool.
- Definitions of unserved and served are useful but they have seen that simplifies a complex issue.
- The use of broadband is continually evolving and definitions of underserved and unserved do not keep pace.
- They do not target the needs of schools or businesses that have higher speed requirements.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition:

Chris Rand - NHTA

- NHTA is composed of internet and voice providers serving the some of the most rural areas of New Hampshire.
- The companies he represents have invested tens of millions into rural communities and SB 247 will threaten those investments.
- Fiber networks are very expensive to build and each company has taken a different approach to fund their efforts.
- The initial construction of these networks is just one part of the cost.
- There are ongoing costs to run the networks as well as costs to upgrade equipment as it ages out.
- None of these investments are short term.
- Many areas require a multi decade commitment in order to pay off the investment.
- His company began building fiber in 2008 and at the time 100 megabits was the fastest equipment available in the market.
- Today, most of his network provides 1 gigabit to the home.
- Last year, his company started installing equipment that will bring 10 gigabit to the home.
- In fourteen years, there has been a 100 fold increase in speed.
- This migration to ever increasing speeds is expensive and takes years to complete.
- SB 247 undermines the market based incentives that make this possible and undermines the business model that make voice and internet possible in the rural areas where they provide service.
- The changes proposed in this bill could create a situation in which a provider who has borrowed millions to pay for a state of the art 1 gigabit investment, threatened by a municipal network.

- As presented this bill will allow the town to bypass the provider to bond then overbuild and compete directly against the provider.
- Current law enables towns to work with providers to fill in coverage gaps that exist in hard to reach areas.
- This bill will create an adversarial relationship between internet service providers and government.

Chris Hodgdon - Comcast

- It is important to draw a distinction between this law and the law created in 2018.
- The 2018 legislation has been used to build networks serving whole towns as well as the unserved part of towns in several communities.
- This bill is entirely about government becoming a competitor to the private sector.
- It is either government bonding and building networks to directly compete and are owned by the government or are owned by the government and there is a chosen provider who gains the benefit of this public subsidy.
- They believe that should be avoided.
- They supported SB 170 because there are areas where the private sector has not deployed broadband but it is a small population that is affected.
- Currently, 95% of the state is served by high capacity networks.
- The private sector has deployed networks that are highly capable.
- Every cable association that they belong to, small and large offers services either at or in excess of 1 gigabit:
- The notion that the 25/3 standard is a ceiling is flawed.
- It is the floor and most providers are far exceeding that level of investment.
- Mapping is frustrating on both sides especially regarding the flow of information.
- The passage of SB 88 last session addressed that and clearly sets out a timeline for information sharing information and how communication should be handled.
- The concern that mapping is an issue has been addressed.
- Whether or not the private sector is sustaining broadband
- All of the investments they have made over the last forty years have vastly increased network capacity and allowed for major innovation in the types of services and the way they deliver their products.
- One of their programs has connected 11 million people that otherwise would not be able to afford internet.
- In 2021 they announced the first test of the next generation network.
- This will allow speeds in excess of 4 gigabits down and 4 gigabits up using existing hardware that they are deploying right now.
- They are deploying improved Wi-Fi technology into homes.
- The investment that the private sector has made is meeting the needs of consumers, businesses and governments in their areas.
- Passing this bill will allow government to be a competitor to these investments.
- NH statutory code is full of provisions that encourage partnerships between the private and public sector.
- Government is their regulator, their taxing authority, it determines when they can access the streets, how they do it, what the cost will be and what the taxes and fees are that they put on their bills.
- Senator Soucy commented that it seems as though the legislature has taken steps to address those that are unserved and the vast majority in NH are being served but she thinks there is still a concern from people who feel they are underserved and asked if he could explain what his company is doing to address that.
 - Mr. Hodgdon replied that there are technical solutions and partnership solutions. Internet service providers have long focused on the provision of services to the modem in the house. That is where their ability to control the experience ended and the consumer's hardware and use occurred. With the explosion of Wi-Fi when there are issues in the

house the customer looks to the ISP. They have added customer functionality to the Wi-Fi service. They have an app that allows customers to control access to their service. They have rolled out the deployment of Wi-Fi extenders in the house that has allowed for a whole home solution. The overall capacity of the in-home Wi-Fi network has improved. They are working on the next generation gateway that will allow Wi-Fi to be as strong as it is at the modem. The second issue is adoption of broadband and they have created an internet essentials program. It is available for \$9.99 a month that is available to everyone and it is designed to get people online. All public Wi-Fi hotspots are available to anyone not just customers. They have also made spots available at places where kids can access the internet.

Maura Weston - NECTA

- Her association serves approximately 485,000 customers and offer services to more than 650,000 locations in more than 184 communities.
- They are in opposition of this bill as it is unnecessary and imprudent.
- SB 170 was the result of a long stakeholder process led by Senators Gray and Kahn and it is working.
- The conversation of financing for broadband began in 2004.
- NH has always supported public private partnerships.
- Last session, SB 85, established the NH Broadband Matching Grant Program.
- Using federal funds to leverage private dollars, this program will facilitate broadband deployment to the unserved areas of the state.
- This will help NH close any remaining broadband infrastructure gaps.
- She believes they should let SB 85 have time to work and let opportunities unfold.
- SB 247 is not prudent as technology for broadband is rapidly changing and new advances emerge every day.
- Committing a town to a particular technology will create serious risk for bondholders and potentially force taxpayers to commit additional funding so that it remains viable.
- Recently, two municipal broadband networks in Massachusetts could no longer remain financially viable to operate.
- With increasing costs in operation, the inability to keep up with needed investments and advancing technology, and declining customer bases, both networks chose to sell to Comcast.
- Here in New Hampshire, an open-access network called FastRoads received in excess of \$40 million in taxpayer grants to be built but also had difficulty attracting enough subscribers to break even.
- It was eventually sold to a private entity for a substantial loss.
- They have concerns about municipalities being their regulator and their competitor.
- The list of ways in which a municipality favors itself over a private competitor is long.
- No one should believe that when millions of dollars have been bonded, municipal officials won't act to protect investment.
- Let the law work for the unserved and do not go down the road of allowing government to act as regulator and competitor when they have a clear financial self-interest.

TJM

Date Hearing Report completed: February 2, 2022

Speakers

Senate Remote Testify

Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee Testify List for Bill SB247 on 202

Support: 7 Oppose: 0

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>
Ward, Senator Ruth	An Elected Official	Senate District 8	Support
Isaak, Jim	A Member of the Public	Myself and the position of my professional society, IEEE	Support
Straus, Sandra	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Herman, William	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Sawyer, Rick	A Member of the Public	Town of Bedford	Support
Hennessey, Erin	An Elected Official	Myself	Support
Hoey, Kathleen	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support

Testimony

Tricia Melillo

From: Jim Isaak <CS2010@jimisaak.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2022 12:16 PM
To: James Gray; Regina Birdsell; Ruth Ward; Donna Soucy; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka
Cc: Denise Ricciardi; Marie Marston; Tricia Melillo
Subject: Support for SB 247 -- municipal broadband
Attachments: Broadband1120.pdf

Honored Senators,

I have been working on broadband issues for over fifty years, and I am a strong advocate of the value of access for every resident in New Hampshire. Attached is the official position for the IEEE-USA professional society, part of the largest society of technical professionals worldwide, and the creators of WiFi and Bluetooth standards as well as the technologists that invent and maintain communications, computing systems and much more.

The critical value of SB247 is to enable every municipality to identify the model for Internet Broadband that meets their needs currently and into the future. This must consider all residents, not just access in a census district. The current FCC definition of broadband considers a district to have broadband, even if there is only one point in that district with access. For our North Country, rural, and mountainous areas, this is often not sufficient. The economics of private suppliers do not justify extending access to all residents, or upgrading services to match the current and future capacity levels.

This legislation will enable municipalities to use bonding capability as a tool to assure 21st century infrastructure is available to all residents to meet their educational, employment, health care and related needs into the future. Bonding via private-public partnerships allows many options either in collaboration with existing vendors, facilitating competing suppliers, or where needed providing direct services.

Every town in New Hampshire is different, and will need to find the best solution for access in their community.

I ask you to support this bill and enable the level of local control and decision making needed for New Hampshire municipalities.

thank you for your support

Jim Isaak, Bedford, NH

Advocating the expansion to universal affordable broadband

Concerned about Digital Privacy and Trust, join the IEEE Collabratec Community (membership not required)

2019/20 Chair IEEE USA Committee on Communications Policy

2020/21 NH IEEE Section Chair , IEEE NH Section

2015 Vice President, IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology;

President Emeritus, IEEE Computer Society;

2003/2004 IEEE Division VIII Director

www.JimIsaak.com



**Testimony of Chris Hodgdon, Vice President Government Relations
Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee**

SB 247 – Relative to Broadband Infrastructure Bonds

January 26, 2022

Chairman Gray and distinguished members of the Committee, my name is Chris Hodgdon, I am Comcast's Vice President of Government Affairs in New Hampshire. Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in opposition to SB 274. Comcast serves approximately 375,000 residential, commercial, public sector and non-profit customers with broadband, video, wired and wireless voice and home security and automation services in 112 New Hampshire communities.

We oppose this legislation because New Hampshire law already allows local governments to bond to build broadband where it is not. Current law, created in 2018, has been used to build networks serving whole towns as well as the unserved part of towns in several communities. This legislation isn't about solving New Hampshire's unserved challenge it is about government stepping in where high quality broadband already exists.

Comcast and the rest of the broadband industry have successfully deployed wired networks reaching more than 95% New Hampshire homes and businesses with broadband speeds. Throughout our service area, Comcast's network supports broadband speeds of 1.2 Gigabits per second, this is among the fastest, most robust network speeds available anywhere today. In fact, throughout the 95% of the state that is served cable companies, large and small, are offering gigabit internet access.

In 2018 we worked with the sponsors and supported SB 170 in its final form because we recognized that broadband is critical and that where the private sector hasn't deployed, government has a role to play in solving the problem. Unlike SB 170, SB 247 has nothing to do with solving New Hampshire's broadband availability challenge. Instead, SB 247 represents government tipping the scales of competition in its favor either as a network owner and operator or as a network owner who in turn favors a chosen provider on its behalf.

As I illustrate in the attached presentation there is no evidence that Comcast or any other cable provider has failed to upgrade its network and services to meet consumer demand. Covid-19 drove unprecedented increases in network utilization in 2020. Network capacity that typically takes 18-24 months to exhaust due to traffic growth was consumed in a few weeks as our economy and key government services like education moved onto home broadband networks. Networks, by all accounts, performed remarkably well.

Further, as you can see in the attached presentation, Comcast, and the cable industry's publicly announced plans to invest in the next generation of wired networks known as 10G will bring multi gigabit upload and download speeds to New Hampshire within the near future. As described below, development and deployment of key in-home electronics, necessary to support these higher speeds, are already underway to meet the needs customers.

For the reasons I have outlined above. SB 247 will not aid in solving the challenge of broadband availability where it exists and fostering local government's entry into the competitive broadband marketplace will lead to unwelcome and negative policy outcomes. Please find SB 247 Inexpedient to Legislate. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Chris Hodgdon
Vice President, Government Affairs
Comcast

628-3380
chris_hodgdon@comcast.com



Office of the Town Manager

January 26, 2022

Honorable Chairman Gray and Members of Senate Election Law and
Municipal Affairs Committee
Room 103
State House
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Senate Bill 247 – Broadband Infrastructure Bonds

Dear Chairman Gray and Members of the Committee:

I appreciate this opportunity to write and express, on behalf of the Town of Bedford, our support for the adoption of Senate Bill 247, an act relative to broadband infrastructure bonds at the local community level.

The proposed legislation would authorize a municipality or county to issue bonds or notes for the financing of broadband infrastructure projects for any location within a municipality. As presented, this is a broadening of current statute that would enable a local decision to potentially participate in or cover the expense of bringing broadband service to small sections of a community if the local legislative body, the voters, approve the financing of such an undertaking.

Historically, the New Hampshire Legislature has enabled municipalities and counties the ability to finance this type of activity, but only if a location of a municipality was unserved by broadband under some exceptionally low technical standards of service. As presented, SB 247 would allow a local community to make a decision that is in its best interest to potentially finance the cost of expansion or development required to bring enhanced broadband service to all sections of the community.

We do not pretend this is something every community would want to do. At this point, we are not sure whether the Town of Bedford would need to take such a step. However, to even plan for a future program, we believe that communities that may wish to explore such an infrastructure investment should be able to undertake planning with the assurance that if they decide to embark on such a project, that it may do so if it gains the required super majority approval from the voters required for approval of a bond issuance.

Current legislation effectively prohibits this activity. As a town, we believe that it is necessary for every community in NH to have the ability to determine needs and solutions to making improvements. As proposed, this is enabling legislation that would still take many decisions to be made at the local level, but it can be a sound tool for some municipalities to be able to utilize.

I urge the Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee to forward SB 247 with an 'Ought to Pass' recommendation.

On behalf of the Town of Bedford I want to thank Senator Ricciardi for sponsoring the legislation and Chairman Gray and the members of the Committee for your diligent review of this important matter.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you or the Committee in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard S. Sawyer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard S. Sawyer, CPM, AICP
Town Manager



BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
New Hampshire's Statewide
Chamber of Commerce

Testimony of Rick Fabrizio
Business & Industry Association
SB 247
Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee
January 26, 2022

I am Rick Fabrizio, director of communications and public policy for the Business & Industry Association, New Hampshire's statewide chamber of commerce and leading business advocate.

BIA recognizes the critical role of telecommunications and high-speed internet in fostering a healthy, growing economy across New Hampshire. We support efforts to ensure state and municipal telecommunications policies are fair and promote sustained investment and equal competition among all service providers; support expansion of 5G and other radio frequency technologies including Wi-Fi in New Hampshire and oppose legislation restricting expansion. BIA also supports private sector investment, together with state and federal funding, for broadband expansion.

However, BIA opposes Senate Bill 247 because it would create a system where the government picks winners and losers among private competitors or government itself enters a marketplace as a competitor where broadband already exists. This is bad public policy and will only lead to bad outcomes. BIA has long supported public policy that encourages competition between providers on a level playing field.

Government should only step in if the private sector hasn't invested, but that's not the case. The private sector continues to expand broadband in all parts of the state while investing to continuously improve the services it offers everywhere. SB 247 has nothing to do with helping people access broadband where it doesn't exist, but it is about allowing government to tip the scales of competition where broadband is already available.

SB 247 is also problematic because local taxpayers will be on the hook to pay back bonds for 20 years, whether the broadband technology they're paying for remains the best means of delivering it or not.

Most people, businesses and organizations want expanded access to reliable high-speed internet. It's vitally important to New Hampshire's future economic development, allowing greater ability to work from home, run businesses, learn remotely and for telehealth. However, New Hampshire needs to craft fair and appropriate legislation to support expansion and SB 247 is not the right answer.

There's an unprecedented amount of federal money coming to New Hampshire to support broadband buildout. This money is the first and best option to achieve buildout. BIA expects it will be invested where it is needed and to get broadband to those who lack it. Now is not the time to discourage private sector partnerships by making local governments another competitor in the marketplace.

Honorable and Members of Senate Election Law and Municipal
Affairs Committee Room 103
State House
Concord, NH 03301

January 26, 2022

Dear Chairman Gray and Members of the Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of SB 247 An act relative broadband infrastructure municipal bonds.

The critical value of SB247 is to enable every municipality to identify the model for Internet Broadband that meets current needs and provide future capacity. Current State initiatives are designed to expand broadband services to every community in NH and recognize the absolute requirement that our residents have the ability to access high speed, reliable broad band services at a reasonable price.

To be truly effective, opportunities for access must consider all residents, not just access in a census district that have questionable mapping data. The current FCC definition of broadband considers a district to have broadband, even if there is only one point in that district with access, and it is recognized that these indications of service are unreliable. More importantly they are based on a standards that has long been supplemented by newer technologies.

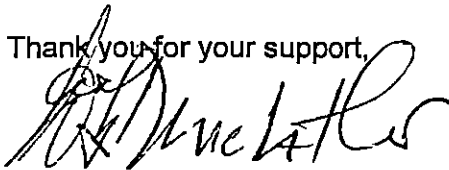
The economics of private suppliers do not justify extending access to all residents, or even upgrading services to match the current and future capacity levels. Surveys of residents in even supposed overbuilt areas, indicate that over 85% of people who are connected to various versions of broadband as dissatisfied with the services available to them and want faster, more reliable service delivered at fair, competitive rates.

This legislation will enable municipalities to use bonding capability as a tool to assure 21st century infrastructure is available to all residents to meet both their current and future educational, employment, health care, entertainment and informational related needs into the future. The potential of private-public partnerships allows many options either in collaboration with existing vendors, facilitating competing suppliers, or where needed providing direct services. To participate, a community needs to be able to issue bonds with the approval of their legislative body.

Every town in New Hampshire is different, and will need to find the best solution for access in their community, but it must have access to the tools that will allow it to participate.

I ask you to support this bill and enable the level of local control and decision making needed for New Hampshire municipalities.

Thank you for your support,



William L. Duschatko
33 Wiggin RD.
Bedford, NH 03110



New England Cable & Telecommunications Association, Inc.

*New England Cable & Telecommunications Association, Inc.
53 State Street • 5th Floor • Boston, MA 02109
Tel: 781.843.3418*

New England Cable & Telecommunications Association, Inc.

Testimony in Opposition to SB 247, Relative to Broadband Infrastructure Bonds

Election Law & Municipal Affairs Committee

January 26, 2022

Good afternoon, my name is Maura Weston, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today on behalf of the New England Cable and Telecommunications Association (NECTA). Our members, including Breezeline (formerly known as Atlantic Broadband), Charter and Comcast, are New Hampshire's leading broadband and communications providers. Together they serve approximately 485,000 customers and offer their services to more than 650,000 locations in more than 184 communities. Importantly every one of those more than 650,000 locations has available broadband speeds of at least 1Gbps (gigabit per second) and most speeds far higher. Cable broadband providers continue to offer among the most capable, widely available networks in New Hampshire.

I am testifying today in opposition to SB 247. This legislation is unnecessary and imprudent. SB 247 is not necessary to serve the remaining New Hampshire citizens without broadband. It is also imprudent as it could disincentivize private sector investment and create risks for New Hampshire taxpayers. SB 247 will only serve to encourage local governments to use taxpayer funds to compete directly against private sector providers, either by building and operating their own networks or favoring one existing provider over another, leaving taxpayers to carry the risks.

1. SB 247 is Unnecessary

- NH RSA 33:3 is working

SB 247 would amend NH RSA 33:3 to allow municipalities or counties to issue bonds or notes to finance broadband infrastructure projects for **any location** within a municipality, even if that location is already served by high-speed broadband. Currently, New Hampshire law only allows bonds or notes to be issued for locations that are **unserved** by broadband as defined by RSA 38:38 I (e).

Since 2018 when NH RSA 33:3 was last amended, it has enabled numerous public / private partnerships to move forward and provide broadband service to unserved locations. When this statute was amended in 2018 by SB 170, it was the result of a long stakeholder process led by

Senators Gray and Kahn. We appreciated their efforts and NECTA was pleased to support SB 170 in its final form.

NECTA continues to support government's involvement in and use of public resources to promote broadband service in truly **unserved locations**. NECTA and our members understand how essential reliable, high-speed broadband connectivity is for the residents and businesses of New Hampshire, particularly during this time of COVID-19. However, SB 247 would allow local governments to choose winners and losers among providers and become a self-interested competitor itself while putting local government finances at risk. Duplicative broadband infrastructure funded by government bonding in areas already served by world-class, high-speed broadband is not warranted. This would divert resources from the state's true remaining broadband challenge: unserved areas.

- **NH Broadband Matching Grant Program**

Last session SB85 was signed into law, establishing a broadband matching grant program housed within the Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA). This program was designed under the leadership of Senators Bradley and Kahn to promote broadband expansion in New Hampshire. Using federal funds to leverage private dollars, the new grant program will facilitate broadband deployment to the unserved areas of the state and help New Hampshire close any remaining broadband infrastructure gaps.

With the unprecedented amount of federal funds coming to the state through the new matching grant program, allowing municipalities to bond for broadband infrastructure as SB 247 allows is premature and unnecessary.

2. SB 247 is not prudent

- **Rapid changes in technology**

Allowing municipalities to commit taxpayers to long-term debt, upwards of twenty years or more, in areas where one if not more providers are already providing competitive services is extremely risky. Technology for broadband is rapidly changing and new advances emerge every day. Committing a town to a particular technology, as the private market continues to evolve, will create serious risk for bondholders and potentially force taxpayers to continue to commit additional funding to upgrade the project over time so it remains viable.

As you will see in examples below, several towns in New England that have used municipal financing in the past few decades have found themselves in dire situations. While towns might have deployed the latest technology that was available at the time their project started, technology evolved and the costs to keep up with newest trends and needed upgrades to remain competitive with private providers increased significantly. For these reasons, these towns ultimately had to sell their networks because the costs to make the needed upgrades to compete were simply unattainable for their local taxpayers.

Simply put, government does many things well, but the track record of government-owned networks (GONs) is riddled with inefficiencies and failures. Municipalities are not well equipped to keep pace with the ongoing high costs, dynamic pace and complex technical nature of providing Internet capability. The short history of GONs is littered with failed projects that took years to even get started, wasted public dollars and then left the taxpayers on the hook for the remaining bills. Unfortunately, as mentioned above, there are many New England cities and towns that have embarked on the path that SB247 would allow, only to find themselves mired in a financial upheaval.

- Real Costs, Challenges and Unrealistic Business Plans

When evaluating the merits of spending taxpayer dollars to finance broadband infrastructure, many factors must be considered beyond the initial deployment. Broadband networks are complex to design, costly to build, and require ongoing maintenance and upgrades to remain viable. Unlike gas, electric and water industries, broadband networks require continuous, expensive capital outlays and network upgrades to keep pace with consumer demand.

Private broadband providers have to continuously update and invest in their networks so they remain resilient, secure from cyber threats and outpace the latest trends in technology. These companies make investments 18 to 24 months in advance of projected consumer trends and spend hundreds of millions of dollars annually on these continuous updates. For example, NECTA members alone spent over \$250 million in the last three years on capital investments in New Hampshire to ensure that their networks remained state-of-the art and resilient for their customers.

Municipalities in New Hampshire, which are home to 95% of the state's population and already served by NECTA member companies, have access to gigabit broadband service and the companies continue to invest in these networks.

Although not every government financed deployment has followed the exact same business model, one thing remains constant, municipalities take on long term debt that taxpayers are ultimately responsible for. This remains true, even under a model whereby a private partner seeks to recoup some amount of cost by placing a surcharge on the taxpayer's bill. There is no guarantee that a duplicative network will attract enough customers to generate the revenue needed to be successful and meet the debt obligations, especially in municipalities where there are already competitive providers. Long term debt obligations cannot be disguised by short term fees.

Fortunately for New Hampshire, we are not the first state to consider government financing of broadband, so there are a lot of lessons learned that can be considered. Importantly, analysis by independent experts show that publicly financed broadband networks have great difficulty being financially sustainable. A study by Professor Christopher Yoo and coauthor Timothy Pfenninger at the University of Pennsylvania developed a financial assessment of U.S. municipal fiber projects to determine their cash flow status and long-term financial viability. The authors determined that more than half of the projects were cash flow negative, and the vast majority of those which were cash flow positive would take in excess of 100 years to pay back cost of build-out—including Chattanooga, TN, which advocates often point to as an example of a successful

government owned network. However, the reality is that the Chattanooga network was constructed using tens of millions of dollars in federal and state funding, a fact advocates often overlook. Further, according to Professor Yoo's research, only two of the nineteen government owned networks studied earn enough revenue to cover the costs of development over 30 to 40 years of useful life, and eleven of the networks do not generate enough revenue to cover even operating expenses¹. Questioning the economic viability of these projects, the authors state, "City leaders considering such projects, as well as state and federal officials interested in supporting them, need to understand the documented costs and risks before encouraging new municipal fiber programs to form."

- Failed Government Owned Networks & Ongoing Taxpayer Subsidies

Before allowing municipalities in New Hampshire to bond for broadband infrastructure in areas already served, we would urge you to consider recent failed municipal broadband projects both here in New Hampshire and in our neighboring states that show the true track record of these types of networks.

Most recently over the last few months, two municipal broadband networks in Massachusetts—the Towns of Russell and Braintree, could no longer remain financially viable to operate and chose to sell their networks to Comcast. With increasing costs in operation, the inability to keep up with needed investments and advancing technology and declining customer bases, both municipal networks chose to sell to Comcast as an alternative to continue operating these networks at the peril of their local residents and taxpayers².

In Braintree's instance, Comcast served the entire town with the same services offered here in New Hampshire and had done so for decades. The Braintree Electric Light Department's (BELD) general manager explained in a recent news article that a study was conducted by the department that showed it would need to invest millions of dollars to maintain the quality of the service, which would result in the municipality having to charge significantly higher rates for service³. Rates that couldn't compete with other providers already serving Braintree.

Further, it is important to highlight that even when broadband projects receive state or federal funds to support initial buildout of broadband infrastructure—a widely promoted option by some advocates as a way to finance these networks—it is likely that they will require ongoing taxpayer subsidies to remain sustainable.

Here in New Hampshire, an open-access network project called FastRoads received in excess of \$40 million in taxpayer grants to be built, but also had difficulty attracting enough subscribers to break even. Monadnock Economic Development Corporation, FastRoad's parent entity, ended up having to pay thousands of dollars monthly to keep the project afloat until they ultimately

¹ [Municipal Fiber in the United States: An Empirical Assessment of Financial Performance](#) (Pfenninger and Yoo 2017)

² <https://www.masslive.com/business/2021/12/it-was-a-big-asset-to-the-town-unable-to-keep-up-with-technology-cost-russell-sells-town-cable-tv-system-to-comcast.html>

³ <https://www.nexttv.com/news/comcast-buys-two-massachusetts-municipal-broadband-systems>

sold the network to a private entity for a substantial loss. Proponents of this project and its fiber to the home deployments in Enfield and Rindge lauded the “future proof” nature of the network. Ten years later this project, which received millions in taxpayer “Stimulus” is operated by a private company who advertises a top speed which is less than 1/10 offered by Comcast in Enfield where the two compete. The lesson in these and other projects is that “future proof” is more marketing than sound engineering.

- Concerns with Regulators Acting as Competitors

While overbuilding private networks carries extreme financial risk for cities and towns as highlighted above, it also important to understand that when the private sector faces a municipal competitor (or a competitor in whom the municipality have invested) the municipality wields significant influence and can choose winners and losers. This creates an unavoidably, unlevel playing field. A municipality’s interest will be in the success of its own network or chosen provider. The list of ways in which a municipality favors itself over a private competitor is long. Towns issue permits so that providers can deploy in roads and rights of way and to do simple maintenance and repairs. Municipalities tax private competitors for the use and occupation of the rights of way and they assess real property taxes on conduit and other infrastructure. Our members also pay franchise fees to the municipalities at a rate determined by the municipality.

If a municipality competes against the private sector it has preferential tax treatment, it hides the true cost of the service by subsidizing it with tax revenue, it hides construction and maintenance costs inside other departments, it often asserts that it should have free access to utility poles and not bear the cost of making those poles safe, it waives, accelerates or avoids all together permitting requirements and frequently it provides itself free or reduced service, removing a potential customer from the marketplace.

No one should believe that when millions of dollars have been bonded, municipal officials won’t act to protect investment. When governments pick winners and losers and duplicate private investment, transparency and accountability suffer. SB 247 would permit this very type of activity to the detriment of taxpayers.

3. Conclusion

Government-owned networks pose serious financial risks to municipalities and taxpayers. SB 247 is not necessary to address New Hampshire’s unserved challenge and would only serve to foster the ability for municipalities to build publicly funded networks and create competition in a way that picks winners and losers. As technology continues to rapidly evolve, allowing municipalities to take on long-term debt to finance these projects and compete with the private market carries risk that will impact local taxpayers for decades to come. The track record of these types of projects, regardless of what type of business model they use prove that government should steer clear of getting into the broadband business and of being locked-in to long-term financing on infrastructure that is extremely expensive and complex to maintain. Lastly, legislators should avoid making public policy that allows government to act as a regulator

and competitor when they have a clear financial self-interest in the success or failure of competing private providers whom it taxes and regulates. This dynamic is inherently flawed and sets an extremely concerning precedent.

With the once-in-a-lifetime availability of federal funding coming to New Hampshire for broadband, the state should remain focused on solving the state's remaining broadband challenges and deploying broadband to unserved areas in partnership with trusted providers.

For the foregoing reasons, we respectfully ask you to vote SB 247 inexpedient to legislate and refrain from allowing municipalities to use taxpayer dollars on municipal broadband in areas already served with world class Internet.

We thank you for your time and attention to this testimony. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Maura Weston

Investment and Innovation in Products and Community

Comcast offers 1.2 Gbps broadband speeds to over 525,000 NH homes and businesses

2018 Comcast Business offers 100 Gigabit ethernet service to NH businesses

2018 Internet Essentials connects 6 Million low-income Americans and adds Veteran eligibility to program

2019 expanded Internet Essentials program to include those eligible for SNAP, Medicaid and SSI

2018

2019

2018 Xfi Pods introduced. Delivers whole home Wi-Fi experience with parental controls, security and Wi-Fi network control through easy-to-use Xfi app.

The newly launched Xfinity X1 Eye Control assistive technology earns a place on *TIME's* '100 Best Inventions of 2019' list

2018 launched first widely available Gigabit Internet Service in New Hampshire available through out Comcast's 109 town footprint.

2019 Launch of Flex streaming box included free for Xfinity internet customers

Investment and Innovation in Products and Community

Comcast offers 1.2 Gbps broadband speeds to over 525,000 NH homes and businesses

2020 Opened public Wi-Fi hotspot network to universal access until the end of 2022.

2020 Introduction of 2nd Generation xfi pods to extend Wi-Fi throughout the home at speeds up to 500Mbps.

2021 Doubled Internet Essentials low-income internet access speeds to 50Mbps/5Mbps, price remains \$9.95 per month.

2021 Announced speed enhancements including increase to 1.2Gbps

2020

2021

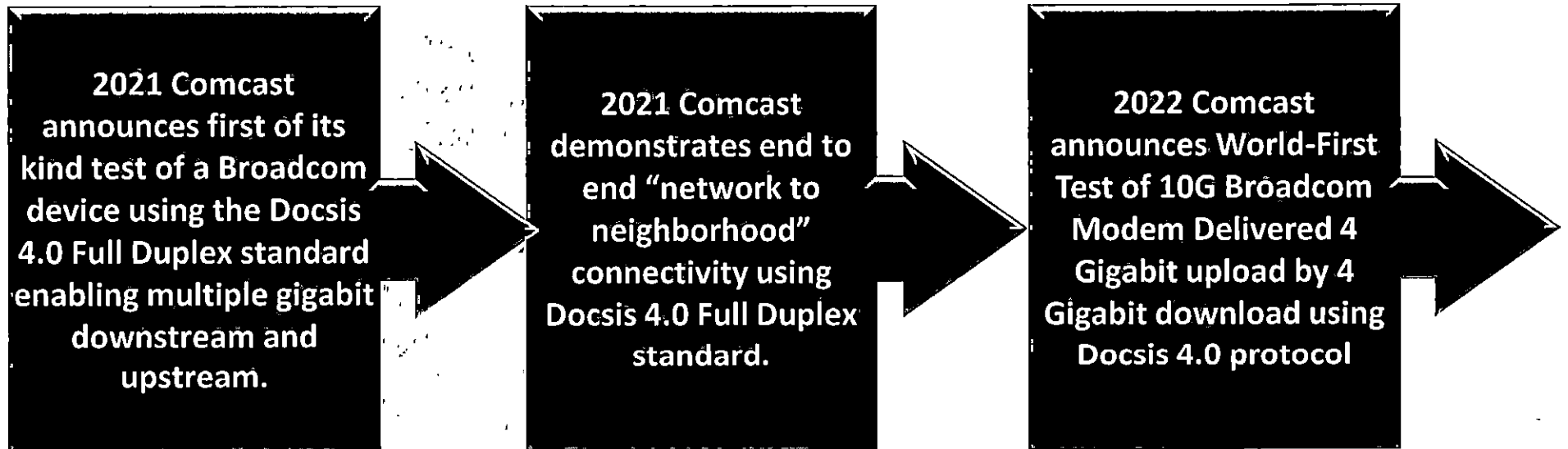
Comcast launches Lift Zones nationwide, including 7 in New Hampshire, providing high-capacity Wi-Fi to help students get online, participate in distance learning, and do their schoolwork.

2020 Expanded Internet Essentials eligibility while offering first 60 days for free and waiver of past due balances to ensure everyone stays connected during Covid-19

2021 Launch of Internet gateway device capable of multi gigabit speeds and Wifi6 integration.

2021 Expanded Internet Essentials eligibility. Added Pell Grant Recipients to Seniors and recipients of federal and state assistance to those eligible for the program.

Innovation Roadmap



ANNOUNCEMENT (News) 15

Announces launch of new Tri-Band Wi-Fi 6E modem supporting Gigabit Wi-Fi in the home for the first time

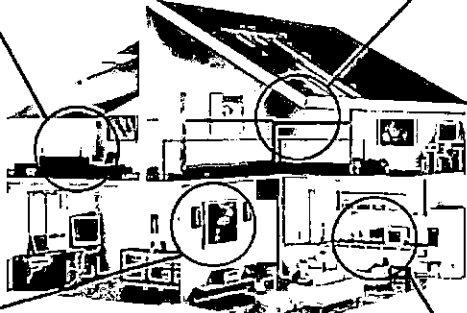
XFINITY - The total home experience

XFINITY Internet Service

- America's fastest Internet service
- The most WiFi coverage in your home
- Stay connected with free WiFi hotspots

XFINITY Home

- 24/7 security with professional monitoring
- Look after your home, family and pets
- Automate and control your home



XFINITY Mobile
A new kind of network
XFINITY Mobile is included with your XFINITY Internet service. It combines the fastest, most reliable 4G LTE + 5G + the most WiFi hotspots nationwide to save you money.

XFINITY TV featuring X1

- A revolutionary entertainment experience
- A cloud-based DVR that does it all
- See it, say it with the X1 Voice Remote

XFINITY Voice

- Reliable service with the best call clarity
- Unlimited calling to almost half the world
- Caller ID on your TV, tablet and mobile

Comcast Proprietary and Confidential

tr it,

Honorable Members:

I would like to express my support of SB 247 that will enable all communities in NH to issue bonds, with the approval of their legislative body, in order to support the development of new, or the modernization and upgrading of existing broadband networks within their communities or in conjunction with other through Communication Districts. Prior legislation has provide the opportunity for rural and underserved communities to take advantage of a number of programs sponsored in general by various Agencies of the Federal Government. While these efforts are just beginning their success is heartening and shows what dedicated hard work can do.

However, the communities that do not qualify for these programs run the risk of being left behind their neighbors in terms of access to high speed, reliable and reasonable priced broadband services. The ability to financially participate in programs that can ensure that their residents have this needed access may prove to be important in securing it on a timely basis.

By PASSING this legislation, these communities will gain the ability to participate in programs that will enhance high speed broadband services. This is done without cost to either the State or Federal taxpayer.

Please support the passage of this SB 247.

Thank you,

Bill Duschatko
Councilor
Bedford NH Town Council
24 Amherst St.
Bedford, NH 03110
603-472-5393
603-582-5393



TOWN OF AUBURN

January 24, 2022

Honorable James Gray, Chair,
and Members of Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee
Room 100
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chairman Gray and Members of the Committee:

We wanted to take this opportunity to write and express our support for the adoption of Senate Bill 247 – an act relative to broadband infrastructure bonds at the local community level.

The proposed legislation would authorize a municipality or county to issue bonds or notes for the financing of broadband infrastructure projects for any location within a municipality. As presented, this is a broadening of current statute that would enable a local decision to potentially cover the expense of bringing broadband service to small sections of a community if the local legislative body – the voters – approve the financing of such an undertaking.

Historically, the New Hampshire Legislature has enabled municipalities and counties the ability to finance this type of activity, but only if a location of a municipality was unserved by broadband under some exceptionally low technical standards of service. As presented, SB 247 would allow a local community to make a decision that was in its best interest to potentially finance the cost of bringing enhanced broadband service to potentially underserved sections of the community.

We do not pretend this is something every community would want to do. At this point, we are not sure whether the Town of Auburn would take such a step. However, we believe communities that do want to make such an infrastructure investment should be able to do so if it gains the required super majority approval from the voters required for approval of a bond issuance.

At this point in time, we are not certain this would be a course of action the Town of Auburn would take, but we would not want to deprive another community of the opportunity to do so. As proposed, this is enabling legislation that would still take many decisions to be made at the local level. But it can be a sound tool for some municipalities to be able to utilize.

We would urge the Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee recommend SB 247 with an Ought to Pass recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Keith N. Leclair, Chairman

Todd R. Bedard, Selectman

Michael J. Rolfe, Selectman

Cc: Senator Carson

Voting Sheets

**Senate Election Law
& Municipal Affairs Committee
EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD
2022 Session**

Bill SB 247

Hearing date: 1/26/22

Executive Session date: 2/14/22

Motion of: IS Vote: 5-0

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair	X	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Ward	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Soucy	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins-Kwoka	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion of: Consent Vote: 5-0

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Ward	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Soucy	X	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins-Kwoka	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion of: _____ Vote: _____

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Ward	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Soucy	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins-Kwoka	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Reported out by: Sen. Soucy

Notes: _____

Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Monday, February 14, 2022

THE COMMITTEE ON Election Law and Municipal Affairs

to which was referred SB 247

AN ACT relative to broadband infrastructure bonds.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

BE REFERRED TO INTERIM STUDY

BY A VOTE OF: 5-0

Senator Donna Soucy
For the Committee

This bill would have authorized municipalities or counties to issue bonds for the financing of broadband improvements. Permitting these bond issues may put at risk the substantial investment that has been made for New Hampshire citizens who were unserved and those that still are. The committee believes that New Hampshire should continue on the course of providing broadband access to those who have no service.

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

General Court of New Hampshire - Bill Status System

Docket of SB247

Docket Abbreviations

Bill Title: relative to broadband infrastructure bonds.*Official Docket of SB247.:*

Date	Body	Description
12/14/2021	S	To Be Introduced 01/05/2022 and Referred to Election Law and Municipal Affairs; SJ 1
1/20/2022	S	Hearing: 01/26/2022, Room 103, SH, 01:00 pm; SC 4
2/15/2022	S	Committee Report: Referred to Interim Study, 02/24/2022; Vote 5-0; CC; SC 8
2/24/2022	S	Sen. Ricciardi Moved to Remove SB 247 from the Consent Calendar; 02/24/2022; SJ 4
2/24/2022	S	Refer to Interim Study, MA, VV; 02/24/2022; SJ 4

NH House

NH Senate

Other Referrals

Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives

Bill Number: SB 247 Senate Committee: ELMA

Please include all documents in the order listed below and indicate the documents which have been included with an "X" beside

Final docket found on Bill Status

Bill Hearing Documents: (Legislative Aides)

- Bill version as it came to the committee
- All Calendar Notices
- Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)
- Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions handed in at the public hearing
- Hearing Report

Revised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office

Committee Action Documents: (Legislative Aides)

All amendments considered in committee (including those not adopted):

- amendment # _____ - amendment # _____

- amendment # _____ - amendment # _____

- Executive Session Sheet
- Committee Report

Floor Action Documents: (Clerk's Office)

All floor amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):

- amendment # _____ - amendment # _____

- amendment # _____ - amendment # _____

Post Floor Action: (if applicable) (Clerk's Office)

Committee of Conference Report (if signed off by all members. Include any new language proposed by the committee of conference):

Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)

Governor's Veto Message

All available versions of the bill: (Clerk's Office)

as amended by the senate

as amended by the house

final version

Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:

Tricia Merullo
Committee Aide

6/14/22
Date

Senate Clerk's Office **TW**