

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

RE: PLEASE SUPPORT HB 9: the Texas Broadband Infrastructure Fund

Governor Abbott,

On behalf of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to ask for your support for HB 9 by Chairman Ashby, which dedicates \$5 billion towards expanding and deploying broadband in Texas.

The Fort Worth Chamber is committed to championing the continued economic growth and prosperity in Fort Worth and Tarrant County. Increasing access to reliable, high-speed broadband internet is an essential tool to sustain the economic development of our region.

It is estimated that 1,000 people are moving to Texas each day. The Fort Worth area is at the heart of that growth, with the DFW metroplex being the fastest-growing region in the state. With increased connectivity in both our work and home settings, broadband is no longer a luxury, but a critical component of our everyday lives. As Fort Worth and Tarrant County continue to grow, we must prioritize bolstering our broadband infrastructure to meet the demand from our families, businesses, and entrepreneurs.

With HB 9, the 88th Texas Legislature has a unique opportunity to invest in the future of our state's connectivity. In addition to broadband expansion, this legislation helps local governments maximize federal and local funding streams and supports telecommunications connectivity for the public safety, workforce and education, and business retention. Simply put: HB 9 is the future-focused policy our state needs to ensure that Texas continues to be the best place to live, work, and play.

I urge you and your colleagues to support HB 9 and its historic investment for broadband deployment and expansion.

Thank you for your service to the great state of Texas and I look forward to working with you this session.

Sincerely,



Rosa Navejar
Chair, Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce
President, The Rios Group, Inc.