



May 31, 2022

Senate Majority Whip Rob McColley
Chair, Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee
Ohio Statehouse, Room 222
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman McColley:

On behalf of OCTA – Ohio's Broadband and Cable Association, thank you for the opportunity to express our support of Am. No. 3127 to Substitute House Bill 430, which is of great interest to our membership and is currently under consideration by the Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee.

Our association represents the state's broadband cable industry operators, programmers, and suppliers. Through our system member companies, the OCTA serves the vast majority of the roughly 3 million cable households in the state, providing broadband, video, and voice service, including wireless.

Concerning Ohio's laws governing the withdrawal of basic local exchange service (BLES), the amendment seeks to clarify that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) may not impose any regulatory requirements or restrictions on providers – including telecommunications service, wireless service, or internet protocol-enabled service providers – beyond what the Ohio General Assembly has prescribed in Ohio Revised Code 4927.07 and 4927.10. Additionally, should the language be adopted, the PUCO would be required to conform its rules to the amendment.

Spurred by recent rulemaking activity at the PUCO, OCTA supports adoption of the amendment seeking to ensure there is clarity and consistency in the interpretation of laws and the creation of rules governing Ohio's BLES withdrawal process. Certainly, ensuring Ohioans have access to basic voice service is important, and OCTA does not believe this amendment would negatively impact consumers' ability to maintain service.

Thank you again for the opportunity to express our support of Am. No. 3127 to Sub. House Bill 430. Please do not hesitate to contact OCTA if you have questions or would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

David Koren, Executive Director
OCTA – Ohio's Broadband & Cable Association

cc: Members of the Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee