



## COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4

Fort Bend County, Texas

Dexter L. McCoy  
Commissioner

April 21, 2023

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

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

Dear Governor Abbott,

I am writing to you today on behalf of my quarter-million constituents in Fort Bend County Precinct 4 seeking your support for HB 9, by Chairman Ashby, which dedicates \$5 billion towards expanding and deploying broadband in Texas.

Although Fort Bend County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state, we still have numerous communities that do not have sufficient access to broadband or high-speed internet. We have spoken with mayors, constituents and providers, all of whom recognize the immense need for funding and improving access to this essential utility. By supporting HB 9, you are supporting Texas homeowners, businesses, developers, students, and families. HB 9 is an essential tool to sustain the economic development of our region and help businesses compete on a global level. I can personally attest that we have lost opportunities to bring businesses and residents into the state and our county because we do not have the utilities necessary in our undeveloped areas to attract them here.

We know that 1,000 people are moving to Texas each day. More than 25% of all Texans are under the age of 18. The workforce of the future needs digital skills to fuel future innovation. Broadband is no longer a luxury, but a critical component of a business's success and growth. As Fort Bend County continues to grow, local businesses need a broadband infrastructure that is equipped to grow alongside the increased demand from businesses and entrepreneurs.

With HB 9, the 88<sup>th</sup> 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 and education sectors. Simply put: HB 9 is the future-focused policy our state needs to ensure that Texas remains the best state to do business in.

I urge you and your colleagues to support HB 9 and its historic investment in broadband deployment and expansion. Thank you for your service to the great State of Texas. I look forward to working with you this session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dexter McCoy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dexter L. McCoy  
County Commissioner  
Fort Bend County Precinct 4