

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on S/C on Telecommunications & Broadband  
For HB 2838

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Hearing Date: May 2, 2025 8:00 AM

David Zumwalt

WISPA - Broadband Without Boundaries

Dallas, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. WISPA - Broadband Without Boundaries represents more than 80 Texas-based Internet Service Providers and technology developers who are driving innovation in the broadband industry. Our members use Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) technology, supplemented by robust fiber-optic networks where economically suitable, to close the digital divide by reaching rural and underserved populations across the state. Their use of FWA technology has allowed them to expand broadband access to communities that larger providers could not find solutions for.

WISPA is opposed to HB 2838 as currently drafted. However, with small modifications, this bill could be improved to prevent wasteful uses of taxpayer resources.

HB 2838 makes many appropriate changes that better align state statute with current standards. However, the definition of “unserved location” as 200 Mbps download speed is significantly out of line with these standards. HB 2838 adopts the FCC’s current threshold of 100 Mbps download speed as the standard for “broadband service.” The BEAD definition of “served” also uses 100 Mbps download speed.

Under HB 2838’s “underserved” definition, Texas’ \$3.3 billion in BEAD funds will be used to bring locations to the 100/20 Mbps “served” standard, but BDO will then be required to spend taxpayer dollars using the state grant program to fund projects serving 200/20 Mbps speeds to the same locations. This duplicative spending will waste dollars that could be better spent connecting communities that lack any service meeting the FCC, BEAD, and Texas definitions of broadband service.

To better reflect the true broadband needs of Texans now and in the future, WISPA encourages the subcommittee to amend HB 2838 to define “underserved locations” as those receiving speeds at or below 25 Mbps download speed and 3 Mbps upload speed, a standard which would appropriately acknowledge the previous FCC definition of broadband using this 25/3 Mbps standard, and define “served locations” as those receiving speeds at or above any current FCC definition of broadband – in this case, aligning that definition to the state’s broadband standard of 100/20 Mbps.

Texas is rightly focused on ensuring its broadband policies direct effective, efficient, and targeted investments. With small modifications, HB 2838 can achieve those ends. WISPA encourages the subcommittee to hold these bills until these changes are made.

Paul Narro  
self  
Whitewright, TX

Opposition to Current Draft: I oppose HB 2838 as currently drafted.

Definition of "Unserved Location": The bill defines "unserved location" as 250 Mbps download speed, which I argue is significantly out of line with current standards.

Current Standards: HB 2838 adopts the FCC's threshold of 100 Mbps download speed as the standard for "broadband service," which aligns with the BEAD definition of "served."

Concerns: I'm concerned that the bill's definition will lead to duplicative spending, wasting taxpayer dollars on projects that bring locations to 250/25 Mbps speeds when they already meet the 100/20 Mbps standard.

Recommendations: I suggest amending HB 2838 to define "underserved locations" as those receiving speeds at or below 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload, and "served locations" as those meeting any current FCC definition of broadband (100/20 Mbps).

Michael Gallops, President/CEO  
Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce  
Farmers Branch, TX

On behalf of the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce, which represents the businesses of Addison, Carrollton, and Farmers Branch, we submit this comment in strong support of HB 2838.

Access to reliable, high-speed internet is no longer a luxury—it is essential infrastructure for workforce development, business growth, education, and economic mobility. HB 2838 takes meaningful steps to close the digital divide in Texas by expanding broadband availability, modernizing broadband mapping standards, and enabling more targeted investment through grants and financial incentives.

This bill also aligns with the Chamber's support for tax reform and infrastructure equity. By removing the state sales tax on internet access services and ensuring qualifying broadband grants are not counted against franchise tax liability, HB 2838 promotes a business-friendly environment that incentivizes both public and private sector investment.

Broadband access is foundational to the success of modern workforce strategies—including remote work, online learning, virtual training, and digital health services. These tools are critical for our region and for Texas to remain competitive in today's economy.

We commend Rep. Ashby for his leadership on this issue and urge the Legislature to support HB 2838 as a forward-looking, fiscally responsible step toward a more connected and competitive Texas.