



Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

Testimony of Charter Communications

LD 1752 "An Act to Exempt Broadband Equipment from Sales and Use Tax"

May 14, 2025

Chairs Grohoski and Cloutier, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. My name is Kate Gore, I am the State Director of Government affairs for Charter Communications, and I am here today to testify in support of LD 1752, "An Act to Exempt Broadband Equipment from the Sales and Use Tax."

Charter Communications provides broadband services to 306 communities in Maine serving more than 440,000 customers and we employ over 700 Maine residents. In 2024 Charter invested over \$100 million dollars and expanded our network to reach an additional 15,000 homes in Maine. Our fiber rich network delivers some of the fastest broadband speeds found anywhere in the country, and we're not stopping there. That's why we've also initiated a project to increase the power of our internet network to deliver symmetrical and multi-Gigabit speeds across our Maine service area.

We're also working to ensure high-speed internet remains within reach for every Mainer, regardless of income. That's why we launched Spectrum Internet Assist, our low-cost broadband offering available to qualifying low-income families and seniors, for \$15/per month with no data caps.

Charter is deeply committed to expanding high-speed internet access across Maine. We continue to invest significantly in building and upgrading broadband infrastructure—particularly in unserved and underserved areas. Last session, we supported similar legislation because we know that smart tax policy can play a critical role in accelerating broadband deployment and closing the digital divide.

LD 1752 would exempt broadband equipment from Maine's sales and use tax—an important step that aligns broadband infrastructure with other essential sectors in Maine's economy. Many industries in the state already benefit from similar exemptions, including manufacturing, agriculture, and biotechnology. Applying this same approach to broadband infrastructure is both fair and forward-thinking.

With Maine set to receive significant federal funding through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, every dollar counts. By removing the sales tax burden on broadband equipment, LD 1752 ensures that more of our investment—and taxpayer dollars—go directly toward building networks that serve Maine residents and businesses. It also sends a strong signal that Maine is serious about fostering a competitive, sustainable broadband marketplace.

This legislation will allow private investment to go further, faster, and to more communities in need. We respectfully urge you to support LD 1752 and help make high-speed internet more accessible and affordable for all Mainers.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I'd be happy to answer any questions.