2/13/2022

Committee on Energy, Utilities & Technology c/o Legislative Information Office 100 State House Station Augusta ME 04333 <u>EUT@legislature.maine.gov</u>

Re: LD 1949, SP0686 An Act To Amend the Caribou Utilities District Charter To Include Broadband Services

Committee Members and Staff:

I am writing today in support of the Caribou Utilities District charter change. As Caribou City Councilor and taxpayer, I whole heartedly support the concept of the Caribou Utilities District installing, and owning a broad band fiber network throughout Caribou, we feel with out this significant change that Caribou will not be able to be competitive in growing and competing for jobs and residential growth in the future.

As it stands now, somewhat quality internet service is mainly within the urban compact zone while the rural areas of Caribou are left without and this will not change unless we move to this public option to ensure that <u>all</u> of Caribou gets quality internet service.

We owe it to all our citizens to have access to high-speed internet, we have many jobs that are "work from home" and on-line sales who depend on high quality, dependable internet service.

It is our hope that the Maine legislature will unanimously support this as well.

Sincerely,

Doug Morrell

Doug Morrell Caribou City Councilor

Cc: Caribou Utilities District