

October 2020

Dear Governor Baker,

I am writing to respectfully encourage you to release the \$1.7 million for OpenCape fiber infrastructure projects on Cape Cod and the Islands that has been allocated in the IT Bond Bill you signed this summer. I believe it is critically important that our region receives these funds immediately in order to quickly address important small business, public safety and healthcare issues. To solve these challenges we need robust, redundant and affordable connectivity, something that the incumbent provider has not been able to provide.

Representative Sarah Peake and Senator Julian Cyr included these funds in the bill in order to facilitate key initiatives that would directly impact communities on Cape Cod and the Islands. These internet connectivity projects will enable OpenCape to extend fiber into the downtown areas of both Provincetown and Chatham, as well as facilitate extensions of the network's backbone in Wellfleet, Truro and Eastham, expand OpenCape's fiber reach in Falmouth and allow for strategic connectivity plans for Duke and Nantucket counties. I feel these projects are vitally important to our region.

In a year where connectivity has never played a bigger role in the day-to-day lives of small business owners, public safety officials and healthcare providers, I urge you to move forward quickly to allocate the money for these OpenCape initiatives. These infrastructure projects would enable merchants and other business owners to have access to reliable, affordable Internet on the Outer and Lower Cape year-round, and I believe they will truly help to transform the area's economy and positively impact our communities. Providing this level of connectivity will help also entice new families and working professionals to consider the Cape for year-round residency, because of remote working and distance learning opportunities, which will in turn add diversity and growth to our communities.

The OpenCape projects will also include connections to town public safety divisions, cultural non-profits and healthcare centers, expansion of the Falmouth Main Street connection project that was successfully launched earlier this year, and plans for network connectivity to the Islands. Each of these projects will benefit our towns, small businesses, residents and visitors.

As a proponent of economic growth for Cape Cod and a believer in bridging the digital divide for all of Massachusetts, I urge you to act now and release these much-needed funds immediately.

Respectfully,