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**Vision:**

Blue Ridge will be the power supply partner of choice, adding economic value and technical expertise to its members through enhanced services.

**Mission:**

Blue Ridge will provide strategic, cost-effective services which enable its members to meet their customers' current and emerging needs.

**Members:**

Town of Bedford  
Central Virginia Electric Coop  
Craig-Botetourt Electric Coop  
Town of Front Royal  
City of Martinsville  
City of Radford  
Town of Richlands  
City of Salem  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
and State University

December 2, 2025

The Honorable Representative Griffith  
2110 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Griffith:

On behalf of Blue Ridge Power Agency and its members, I am writing to express opposition to Section 102 of H.R. 2289, the Proportional Review for Broadband Deployment Act, as amended, because it contains the text of H.R. 278, the BROADBAND Leadership Act.

Blue Ridge Power Agency is a joint action agency with 9 members, each an electric distribution utility. These members serve over 89,000 customers across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Six members are municipally-owned utilities, two are cooperatives, and Virginia Tech Electric Service is a state agency (VTES). Blue Ridge serves as its members' voice in legislative and regulatory proceedings. Blue Ridge, along with VTES and its municipal members, are also members of the American Public Power Association (APPA).

As currently drafted, H.R. 278 would expand federal control over public power utility infrastructure, creating serious safety concerns without any assurance that purported "savings" would be passed on to customers. While public power utilities strongly support expanding broadband access, we do not believe this legislation will achieve that objective.

Section 224 of the Communications Act explicitly exempts public power utilities and rural electric cooperatives from Federal Communications Commission (FCC) oversight of pole attachments, recognizing that oversight is already provided at the local level. For years, cable and telecommunications companies have sought to eliminate this exemption, arguing, without evidence, that local control over rates and regulations is a barrier to broadband deployment.

APPA members are community-owned, not-for-profit entities with no incentive to restrict customer access to broadband services. The only reason a public power utility would deny an attacher access to utility poles is to protect public safety. Our members remain committed to supporting broadband deployment, but we do not believe the provisions in Section 102 of H.R. 2289 will advance that goal.

Sincerely,

Alice Wolfe  
General Manager  
Blue Ridge Power Agency