



MADISONVILLE - HOPKINS COUNTY BOARD OF REALTORS

To Whom It May Concern:

The lack of adequate broadband service is an issue that the REALTORS® in Madisonville/Hopkins County have been dealing with for several years. Last year or then President, Brien Terry wrote a letter addressing this issue and it was shared with the State and National Association of REALTORS® as well as our State and Local elected officials. This is such an important topic that our state association, Kentucky Association of REALTORS® has this as one of their Legislative Priorities for 2018 and will also be there for 2019.

In this day and age of emails, online classes, movie streaming, online gaming, online banking and most importantly, the ability of individuals to work from home for companies that are located hundreds of miles away, this is a big deal and a deal breaker for people looking to relocate to the Madisonville/Hopkins County area. Many of these residents don't have access to high-speed internet where they live. Those who do cannot sell their real property with assurance to their buyers that broadband service will be available.

We have seen individuals who wanted to purchase a home in our area, decided to look elsewhere mainly because of the lack of broadband/high-speed internet. At this point, it becomes an economic issue. How can the residence of rural Kentucky participate in innovative projects and market their communities if they cannot have internet that is now considered a basic necessity?

The Madisonville-Hopkins County Board of Realtors would be willing to help anyway they can with this issue. The Board of Directors has discussed adding a Task Force to help do what they can to address this issue. One thought that we had, is an online survey the way to go to collect data on lack of broadband service? Most of the rural area might not even see this survey. So, the results from the survey might not be as large since a large percentage wouldn't see the survey. The REALTORS® are out there every day selling Madisonville/Hopkins County and they are very aware of how this has already affected people not relocating to Madisonville due to not having access to broadband service.

The Madisonville Hopkins County Board of REALTORS® strongly support continuing to collect data needed to apply for grants that will extend service to the areas that are in need of affordable, reliable and fast high speed internet/broadband service

Respectfully,

Chuck Lambdin, GRI, REALTOR®

2018 President

Madisonville Hopkins County Board of REALTORS®

