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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **Pennsylvania's cable companies provide broadband access to 95 percent of households in the Commonwealth, while expanding deployment to rural areas of the state**

The Broadband Cable Association of Pennsylvania applauds the efforts of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania to increase broadband availability, and adoption, in rural areas of the Commonwealth. Cable companies have been leading this charge for more than twenty years, when a broadband network buildout began that today provides high speed Internet access to 95 percent of Pennsylvania households at speeds meeting or exceeding FCC benchmarks.

The success Pennsylvania's cable companies have realized in expanding deployment of rural broadband access has also been experienced by Internet service providers nationwide. Just last week, the FCC reported that the number of rural Americans with access to such broadband increased by 85.1% in 2017.

With 95 percent of Pennsylvania households having access – from cable companies – to Internet speeds meeting or exceeding the FCC's broadband benchmarks, Pennsylvania's digital divide has been shrinking. But the cable industry's commitment to continually reduce that gap remains through ongoing broadband network expansion, and offering speeds as fast as 1 gigabit in most areas. That commitment from Pennsylvania's cable companies also includes contributions that provide critical broadband services to thousands of the Commonwealth's schools, libraries, medical facilities and community centers in urban, suburban and rural areas.

Pennsylvania's broadband cable industry remains engaged with local and state government to further all efforts to expand access throughout rural Pennsylvania. We look forward to working with the Center for Rural Pennsylvania and the General Assembly to advance broadband deployment and use in the Commonwealth.

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