

## Office of the Governor

January 26, 2018

Bill Panos, Director  
Wyoming Department of Transportation  
5300 Bishop Boulevard  
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Dear Director Panos,

Access to high-quality business and residential broadband is essential to developing, growing and attracting businesses, improving academic performance, supporting healthcare, promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, attracting investment, educating the workforce of the future, quality of life, and improving Wyoming's position as a global competitor. The ENDOW Executive Council is interested in improving access to broadband and technology. I am too.

Some studies indicate that as much as ninety percent of the expense in broadband deployment is associated with construction and obtaining rights of way. With adequate planning, these costs can be decreased substantially. A number of states have adopted "one dig" policies. These policies are not identical but range in scope and nature. They do share advantages such as promoting cost and time savings, enhanced safety, increased broadband deployment, and increased economic activity.

I know the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) has taken steps to accelerate broadband deployment in Wyoming. We can do more. I ask WYDOT to:

- Evaluate the best practices of other states and communities to determine policies to implement in order to facilitate private sector broadband deployment.
- Develop a plan to facilitate the installation of broadband conduit as part of any highway construction and other projects, preferably by the private sector, or by WYDOT, if necessary. This plan should be presented to me and the ENDOW Executive Council no later than June 15, 2018. In this plan:
  - Evaluate whether it is appropriate to modify right of way policies to appropriately accommodate broadband infrastructure.
  - Consider including a notification. For example, you might alert broadband companies of WYDOT highway construction projects and authorize those companies to coordinate conduit installation.

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- Consider appointing an ombudsman. For example, an ombudsman from WYDOT to work with broadband companies and, if established, the State's broadband coordinator and advisory board, in support of broadband deployment.

I appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew H. Mead", is written over a horizontal line.

Matthew H. Mead  
Governor

MHM:dp

cc: ENDOW Executive Council