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***Proponent Testimony of House Bill 2701  
Establishing the Statewide Broadband Expansion Taskforce***

**Testimony by CenturyLink  
John Idoux, Kansas Governmental Affairs Director  
Before the Senate Utilities Committee  
March 20, 2018**

Thank you, Chairman Olson and members of the Committee. My name is John Idoux and I am CenturyLink's Director of Governmental Affairs for Kansas. I appreciate this opportunity to express CenturyLink's views of House Bill 2701.

*Please refer to CenturyLink's Introductory Testimony dated March 11, 2018 for a general introduction of CenturyLink including CenturyLink's commitment to rural broadband deployment and current challenges faced in deploying broadband further into rural Kansas.*

***No Taskforce Can Solve World Hunger***

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There are also over 50 providers offering broadband services in Kansas using a combination of strategies and technologies. Yet a digital divide still exists in Kansas and the reasons are as varied as the providers, the communities and the needs of every resident and business. CenturyLink and other providers continue to trial different approaches, strategies and technologies all in an effort to reduce deployment costs and bridge the digital divide but the obstacles and challenges for the 50-plus providers vary greatly and prevent a one-size-fits-all solution.

### ***A Narrower Focus May Result in Better Solutions***

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### ***Conclusion***

CenturyLink has been – and will continue to be – a strong partner at the discussion table on how to advance broadband. CenturyLink would welcome participation to serve on a statewide broadband taskforce in Kansas and would work with all taskforce members to ensure a productive final report with workable recommendations. If the Committee desires to proceed, CenturyLink urges the Committee to consider the above comments.



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March 20, 2018**

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John Idoux, Kansas Governmental Affairs Director  
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March 20, 2018**

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