

July 15, 2021

2021

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Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and member of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Nancy Smith and I am Executive Director of GrowSmart Maine. Our mission is to create lasting prosperity without sacrificing the quality of life that defines Maine.

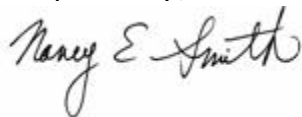
Through our advocacy we support sound policy and investments aligned with our mission. This includes both broadband access for all Mainers and increasing renewable energy production throughout the state. It is from this perspective that I am writing in full support of Governor Mills' nomination of Tim Schneider for the board of the Maine Connectivity Authority.

My interactions with Mr. Schneider encompass both his time at the PUC and his current role with Tilson Technology. In his role with the PUC, I was impressed by the dignity and integrity with which he fulfilled his duties in spite of pressure from both within and outside of state government. I honestly don't know how he did it.

GrowSmart Maine has been a part of the Maine Broadband Coalition since its inception, and I lead the Policy Committee's advocacy and outreach work. In this role, I have appreciated Tim's competence in regulatory policy and his knowledge of the technical and financial aspects of deploying broadband networks for a variety of clients including state and local governments.

His unique mix of personal attributes and professional knowledge will make Tim Schneider an excellent member of the leadership team for the newly formed Connectivity Authority. GrowSmart Maine fully supports his nomination.

Respectfully,



Nancy E Smith
Executive Director