



# THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

January 17, 2025

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
Docketing Division  
11th Floor  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Comments on Case No. 24-1056-AU-ORD

Dear Commissioners:

The Buckeye Institute is an independent, nonpartisan think tank that advocates for free-market policies, individual liberty, and limited government.

Broadband internet access significantly drives economic growth, enhances educational opportunities, and promotes the public welfare. The Buckeye Institute supports **policies** that expand access to broadband, including recent amendments to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) pole attachment rules—and the PUCO should support them, too.

Excessive fees and lengthy negotiations with utility pole owners often **impede** broadband infrastructure deployment. The FCC's **recent reforms** respond to these concerns by standardizing rates, reducing fees, and setting timelines for pole attachment approvals, which will encourage investment in more broadband projects, especially in rural areas where economic challenges typically deter expansion.

The FCC's revised pole attachment rules offer a practical solution to a persistent barrier to broadband expansion. By aligning state policies with the FCC rules, the PUCO can help bridge Ohio's digital divide and provide all residents with access to high-speed broadband internet.

Sincerely,

Greg R. Lawson  
Research Fellow  
The Buckeye Institute