



ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 3, 2017

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(Phoenix) The Arizona Corporation Commission applauds the Arizona Legislature and Governor Doug Ducey for agreeing on a \$9.8 billion budget spending plan which includes \$3 million in broadband expansion monies to benefit rural schools.

Commissioner Andy Tobin welcomed the news, “Governor Ducey is delivering on his promise to put more resources into Arizona schools. This crucial investment into broadband connectivity, coupled with the Commission’s efforts, will leverage over \$100 million in capital investment from the state and federal governments into our schools, improving education parity between our urban and rural areas. I encourage the Arizona Legislature to rally around this historic budget that embraces Arizona’s bright future.”

Tobin has been instrumental in creating an innovative program which reallocates the Arizona Universal Service Fund (AUSF) in order to provide state funding for rural schools and libraries across the state for to high speed broadband. That AUSF funding of \$8 million combined with the \$3 million designated by the Governor, makes the state eligible for federal matches to the tune of more than \$100 million to pay for construction of the broadband infrastructures.

“The commitment of funds in the Legislature’s budget and in the AUSF creates a huge win for our state and our students,” said Chairman Tom Forese. “Kids in rural areas need the same access to educational tools as kids in urban areas. The partnership between the Commission, the Governor’s Office, the Secretary of State, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the non-profit *EducationSuperHighway* is an example of the commitment this state has across the board to equality in education.”

“The technology that these communities will soon have access to will change lives,” said Commissioner Bob Burns. “This advances K-12 education opportunities and allows rural Arizona connection to Arizona’s internationally recognized Telemedicine Program which provides access to specialists and educational opportunities in the medical field.

Public Hearings on the budget agreement are being held today. Debate and votes are tentatively set for Thursday.

Established by Article 15 of the state’s constitution, the Arizona Corporation Commission is responsible for the regulation of public utilities, overseeing the incorporation or registration of companies wishing to do business in Arizona. Additionally, the Corporation Commission registers and oversees securities offerings and dealers, and enforces railroad and pipeline safety. The five commissioners that make up the Commission are elected by the people of Arizona for a four-year term, with the option of serving for two consecutive terms. To learn more about the Arizona Corporation Commission and the Commissioners, please check out <http://www.azcc.gov/Divisions/Administration/about.asp>

