

Nathan Sosa
State Representative
House District 30



Oregon House of Representatives

March 1st, 2022

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Pham and Reschke, and members of the committee.

For the record, my name is Nathan Sosa, State Representative for House District 30 in Hillsboro and North Plains. I am testifying today in support of Senate Bill 1524 with the -23 amendment.

The -23 amendment to Senate Bill 1524 maintains Gain Share funding distribution as part of the bill until 2030. In my district, Gain Share funds are being used to provide affordable access to broadband internet for low-income Oregonians. The HiLight program launched by the City of Hillsboro is a decade-long initiative and we are halfway done. It is vital that this project be sustained and that the benefits continue to be rolled out to residents in the coming years.

In order for that to happen, however, the funding stream must remain uninterrupted through the Gain Share program. I would like to reiterate that we are not asking for any new funding – we are merely requesting that the status quo be maintained.

The pandemic revealed how crucial it is for people to have access to affordable, reliable internet. Those who are deprived of it will struggle to find jobs, work remotely, attend classes, or, in the event of a new viral wave, send their kids to school online. In my district, we are working to guarantee this access, but we need Gain Share dollars to do it.

Members of the committee, I urge support Senate Bill 1524 with adoption of the -23 amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nathan Sosa".

Representative Nathan Sosa