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SC Broadband Advisory Council to Meet Virtually on April 12

COLUMBIA, S.C. – South Carolina's newly formed Broadband Advisory Council will meet virtually on April 12, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. The virtual meeting is open to members of the public through a streamed video feed for those who <u>pre-register</u> to attend.

The state's <u>Broadband Advisory Council</u> consists of 21 members with diverse backgrounds ranging from healthcare and education to economic development and community non-profit organizations. The Council will meet quarterly as they continue to develop plans to connect thousands of unserved households in South Carolina that currently have no access to the internet.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly underscored the importance of internet for many dimensions of daily life including education, telehealth, and staying connected with friends and family members," said Jim Stritzinger, Co-Chair of the Broadband Advisory Council and Director of the state's Broadband Office, which is housed within the SC Office of Regulatory Staff. "We intend to listen intently to the feedback of the Council members and will fold their recommendations into our strategic plans as we work to make historic investments in South Carolina's digital infrastructure."

The Council serves as a strategic complement to the SC Broadband Office, allowing the group to convene and collaborate with inter-disciplinary stakeholders to identify and provide recommendations to streamline broadband access statewide.

"We look forward to making great strides together as a team," said Anna Berger, Co-Chair of the Broadband Advisory Council and Senior Director of Operations for the SC Association of Counties. "I am extremely appreciative of the Council's cooperation and dedication as we collaborate to expand internet access across all counties in our state."