

**Testimony of  
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Kentucky General Assembly  
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- Chairman Lockett, Chairman Williams, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today regarding Open Access Networks, Zayo Group and Zayo Education, and our work both here in the Commonwealth and across the world.
- This is my second time speaking before this committee, and on behalf of the Zayo family of companies, I would like to express both my and Zayo's appreciation for this ongoing engagement.
- On May 1, 2026, Zayo Group completed its acquisition of Crown Castle's fiber assets, further expanding what is now **the** largest open-access fiber network in North America, and further enhancing Zayo's reach and network here in Kentucky.
- Today, Zayo serves government agencies, enterprises, carriers, cloud providers, and educational institutions through a network spanning the United States and Canada. For Zayo Group, I serve as the General Manager for all our work in the Public Sector in North America as well as the president of Zayo Education.

- Previously, in 2022, Zayo Group acquired Education Networks of America (ENA), leading to the creation of Zayo Education.
- And through Zayo Education, we provide internet access, data transport, and cybersecurity services to every Kentucky public school district in partnership with the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE).
- We are proud of our strong partnership with KDE, which has previously testified to this Committee about the high-quality, cost-effective services we deliver. Specifically, we provide 75% more bandwidth for 50% less cost than the Commonwealth's previous provider.
- While Zayo does not provide residential broadband service directly, we play a critical "middle-mile" role, supplying transport and backbone connectivity to many local internet service providers.
- In short, Zayo's fiber fuels innovation, delivering exceptionally high-capacity network connectivity to the nation's leading innovators while also working to ensure that all Americans have access to the internet.
- Here in Kentucky, we utilize both Zayo-owned network assets and the Kentucky Wired network, through our relationship with Accelecom.
- As you can see, the Zayo long haul fiber optic network traverses the Commonwealth, primarily in the western portion of the state, and we have local fiber assets in Louisville and

Lexington, as well as surrounding metropolitan areas in Evansville, IN and Cincinnati, OH.

- Zayo Education utilizes Kentucky Wired, network assets owned by Accelecom and other third parties, and Zayo-owned assets and equipment to provide data transport services, internet access, and cybersecurity to all school districts in the Commonwealth. No matter how each district is connected, all sites receive the same integration into the overall Zayo Education service framework, including access to internet access capacity and cybersecurity protection.
- Open Access Networks maximize the value of public infrastructure by allowing multiple providers and users to access the same network assets. By supporting dark fiber, optical transport, and network connectivity services, these networks promote competition, encourage investment, avoid duplicative infrastructure, and create opportunities for economic development.
- Zayo has recently won over \$300M in federal and state grants to build out critical “middle mile” infrastructure to help expand broadband in rural and underserved areas.
- As part of this work, Zayo developed its Digital Expansion Access Network, or DEAN. This architecture creates more access points along “middle mile” routes, making it easier and more affordable for local providers to connect customers and community institutions to high-capacity networks.
- A good example of our ability to develop new network routes that serve the public interest is our partnership with the state

of Nevada. Zayo has partnered with multiple Nevada state agencies to design, build, and operate long-haul and middle mile fiber optic networking across the state.

- The project will connect underserved communities, support schools and government facilities, and create additional opportunities for local internet providers through an open access model. The approach demonstrates how “middle mile” infrastructure can accelerate last-minute deployment and long-term economic development.
- Finally, open access networks also depend on secure, shared access locations known as Intermediate Line Amplifier (ILA) sites, often referred to as “huts.”
- Zayo has invested in monitored access, smart-lock technologies, and backup connectivity to ensure these facilities remain secure, reliable, and accessible to all authorized users.
- We consider these improvements and innovations critical to our ongoing leadership in the operation of open access networks as we continue to live up to our reputation of being “the telcos’ telco.”
- In closing, I want to thank the Committee for its thoughtful attention to this issue.
- Thank you, and I welcome your questions.