

VIA EMAIL

April 25, 2025

Kirstie Anderson
Senior Attorney
Indiana Department of Transportation
100 North Senate Ave., N758 – Legal Services
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Re: LSA Document #25-150/Regulatory Analysis-Small Business Economic Impact Statement

Dear Ms. Anderson,

Pursuant to Indiana Code 4-22-2.1-5(c)(2), as the Small Business Ombudsman for the state of Indiana, I have reviewed the proposed rule and economic impact analysis associated with the rule changes contained in LSA Document #25-150 (proposed rule) submitted to the Indiana Small Business Ombudsman by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). I have found the following to be true.

Proposed rule #25-150 adds to Indiana Code 8-23-5-10. As the Ombudsman understands this will codify an emergency rule that expired in October of last year. It is also understood that it will alleviate administrative costs for small businesses for the installation of fiber networks. Moreover, the ombudsman is under the impression that there will be no increase in or addition of fees, fines, or penalties, presenting no additional burdens to small businesses.

The Indiana Department of Transportation provided reasonable analysis presents a reasonable justification and an understanding how the rule will be implemented. Through this rule costs for fiber networks should go down due to fewer regulations regarding the installation of the networks. As a result, the Indiana Small Business Ombudsman supports this proposed addition to the Indiana Administrative Code. If there are any questions about these comments, please contact the Indiana Small Business Ombudsman at ombudsman@iedc.in.gov.

Sincerely,
David Watkins
Small Business Ombudsman
Indiana Economic Development Corporation