



Blue Ridge Mountain EMC wants to extend most sincere thanks to our State Legislators for delivering on the promise to improve rural broadband by expressly authorizing EMC's organized in Georgia to offer broadband services to consumers. This critical legislation known as Senate Bill 2 (2019-2020 Session) passed on the final day of the session by a vote of 54-2 in the Senate, and 160-0 in the House.

The elected officials who serve the BRMEMC area played a pivotal role in the creation and passage of this legislation, with **Senator Steven Gooch** and **Senator John Wilkinson** sponsoring the legislation on the Senate side. Additionally, the leadership of **Speaker David Ralston** was key to getting the legislation heard in the House, and the affirmative vote and support offered by **Representative Matt Gurtler** was also vitally important. Finally, the key sponsors of the legislation on the House side were **Representative Jay Powell** and **Representative Penny Houston**, who do not represent our region, yet deserve great credit for shepherding the legislation through the House.

The text of Senate Bill 2 can be viewed by following the attached link:  
<http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20192020/SB/2>

While Electric Cooperatives in Georgia will not be the complete answer to the rural broadband dilemma, EMC's can and will have a tremendous impact in many communities by offering high-quality broadband to the most rural consumers. BRMEMC is anxious to continue its efforts started in 2002 to build broadband across the entire service area, and we are elated that our Legislators have recognized our needs and have eliminated barriers to our accomplishment of this goal.