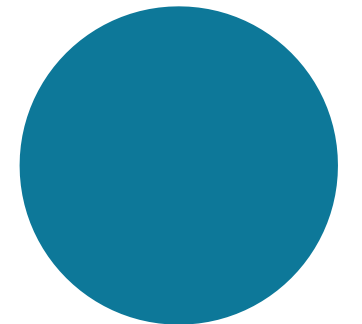


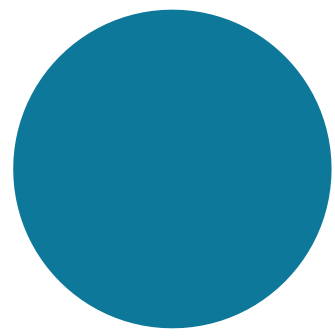


# USEA 19TH ANNUAL STATE OF THE ENERGY INDUSTRY FORUM

CRITICAL COMMUNICATION LIFELINES

JANUARY 26th | WASHINGTON, DC





# ABOUT UTC

- Focused on the intersection of telecommunications and utility infrastructure
- Founded in 1948, UTC celebrates its 75th Anniversary this year
- UTC has hundreds of member organizations, both utility providers and associate organizations





# OUR MISSION



UTC helps members:

- Manage their telecommunications and information technology
- Voice their concerns to legislators and regulators
- Identify and capitalize on opportunities linked to deregulation worldwide
- Network with other telecom and IT professionals

UTC focuses on:

- Broadband Access & closing the digital divide
- Spectrum issues
- Workforce development
- Pole attachments
- Cybersecurity





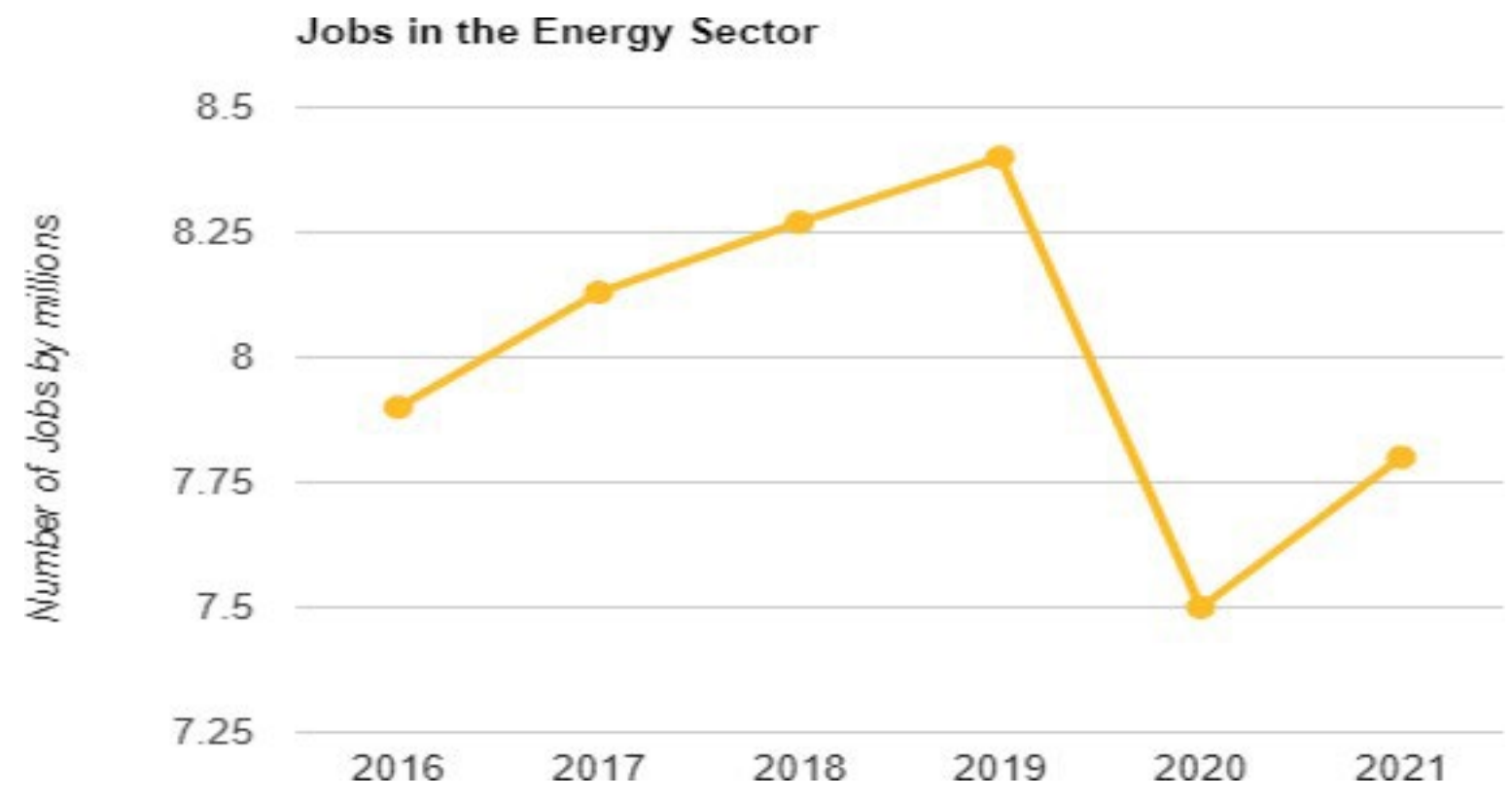
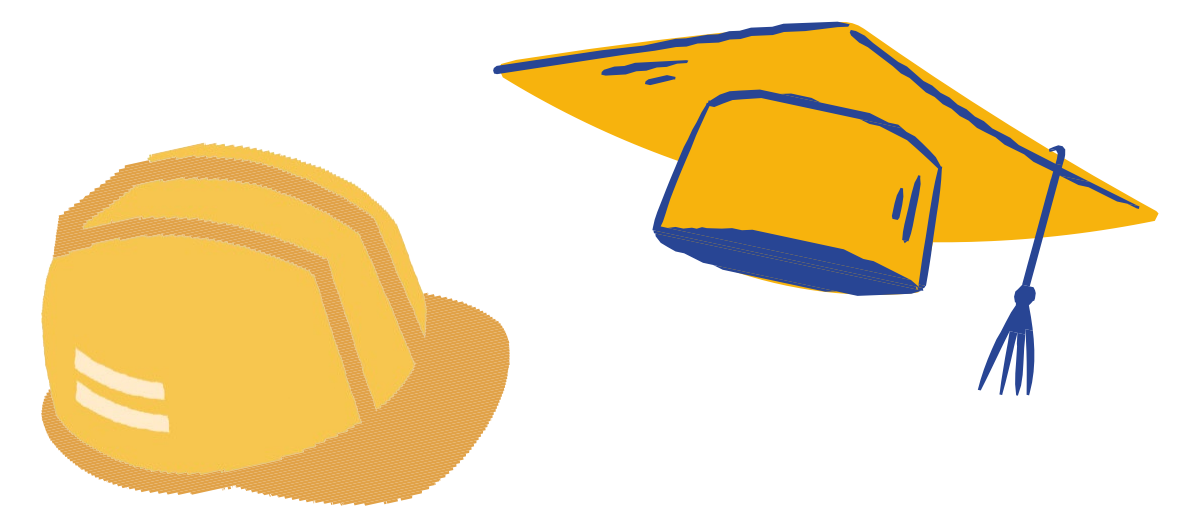
"Tough times never last,  
but tough people do."

Robert H. Shuller



# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- The Energy sector is experiencing minimal growth
- 800,000 jobs lost in 2020, added back 300,000 in 2021
- Everyone is a stakeholder: we must develop a pipeline that is educated, diverse, and inclusive



# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

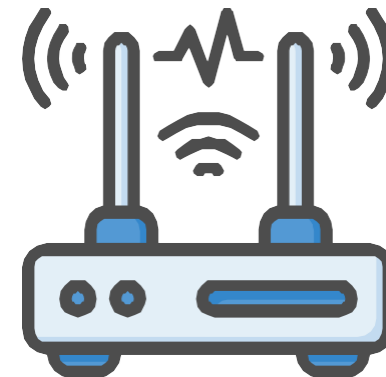
- Strong industry partnerships tackle the workforce crisis
- UTC's Board of Directors supports workforce development efforts
- UTC Foundation continues its mission of workforce development to help build the future workforce in critical infrastructure industries



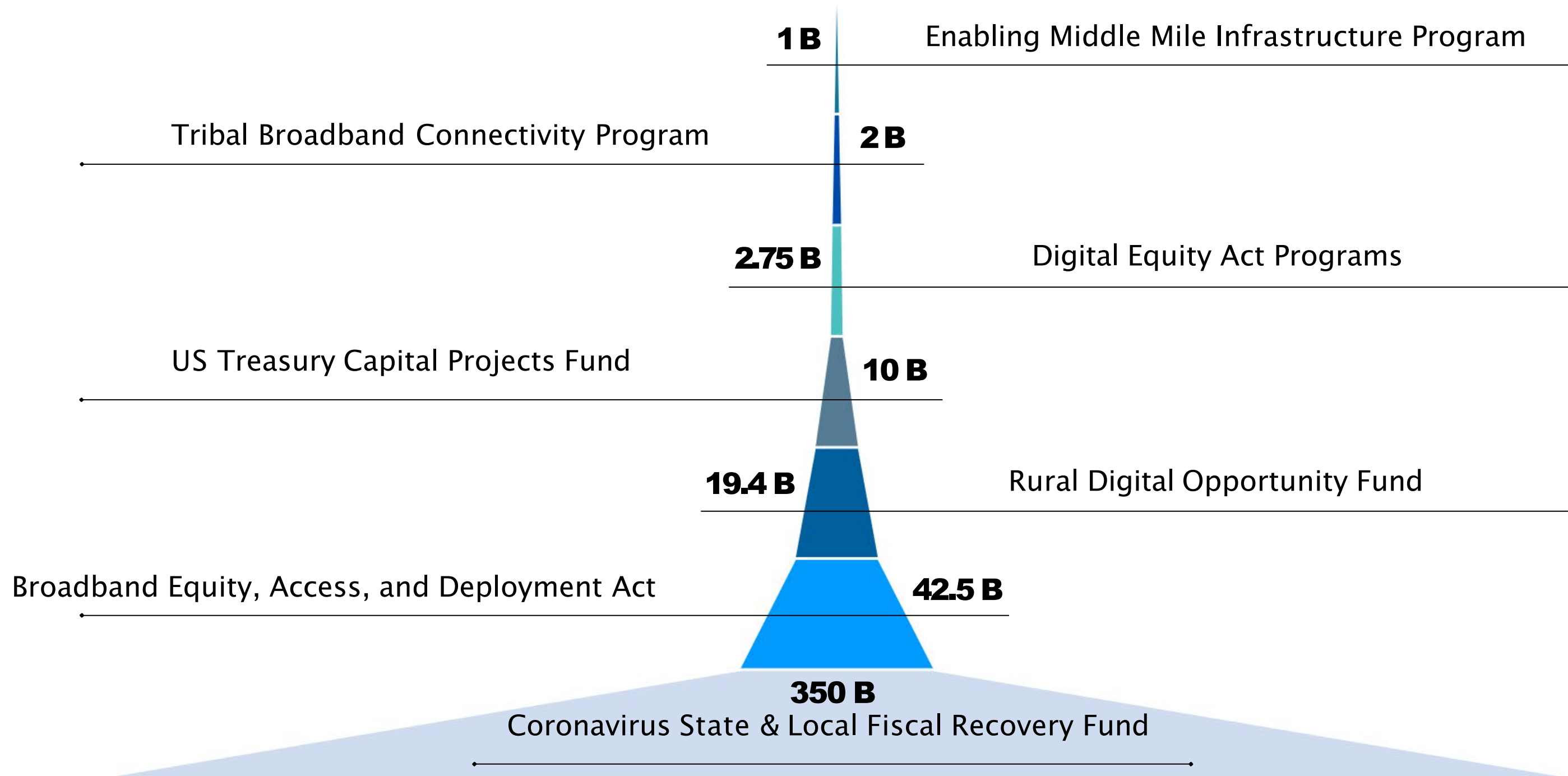


# BROADBAND

- UTC and its members have a longstanding commitment to broadband expansion and closing the digital divide
- Demand for broadband connectivity has increased, but is not available to everyone
- We need broadband equity and inclusion for all communities



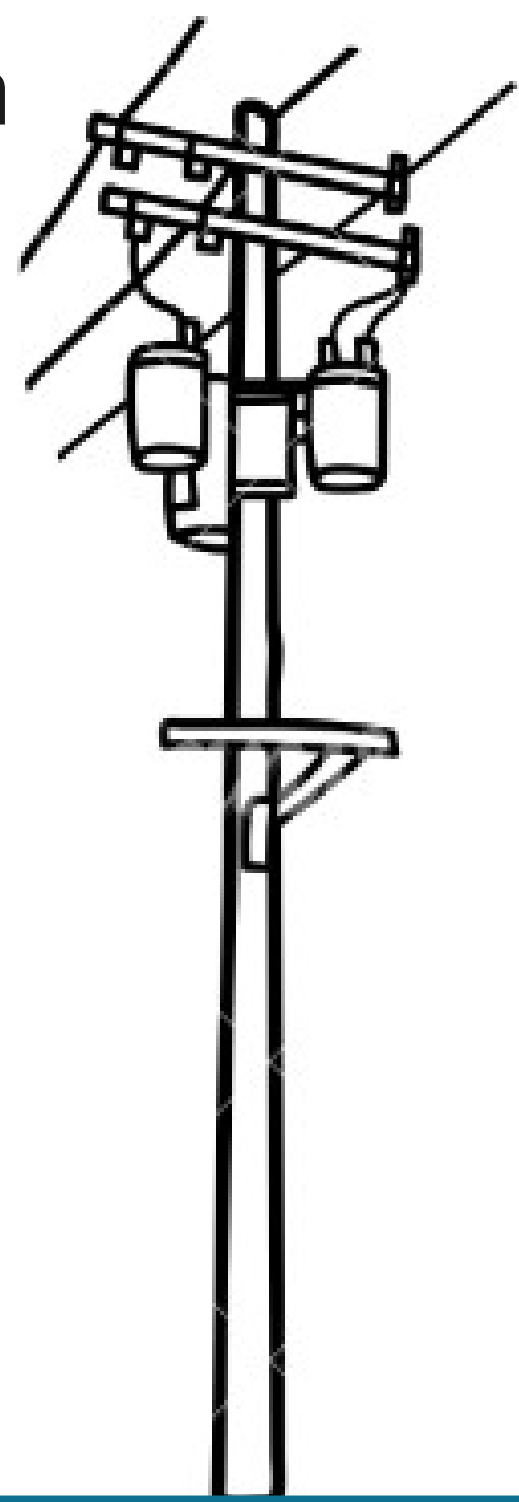
# BROADBAND FUNDING





# POLE ATTACHMENTS

Pole attachments have been a continued focus of UTC's advocacy



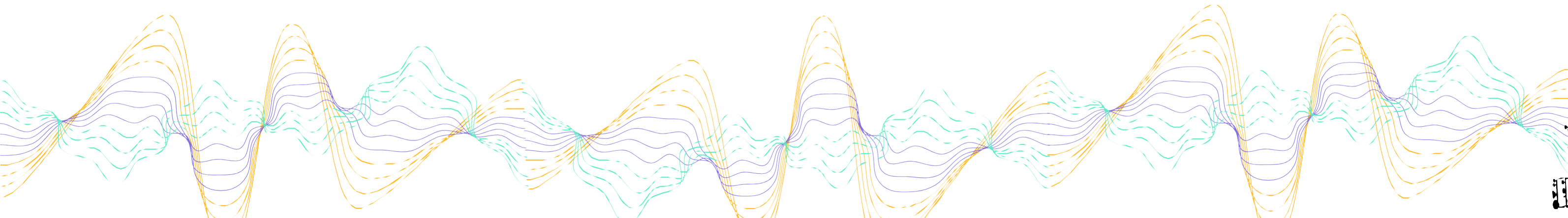
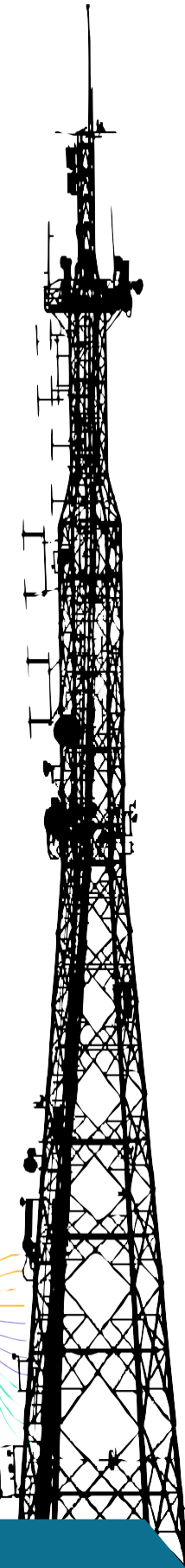
UTC is committed to finding ways to lessen the digital divide without creating undue burden for electric utilities

- Educate FCC about fair models of paying for pole attachments
- UTC supports a declaratory ruling to implement a 2-year statute of limitations and limiting refunds to the filing of good faith notices



# SPECTRUM

- Research interference of unlicensed devices in 6GHz band
- Enlist Departments of Energy and Defense to explore sharing 7 and 8 GHz bands
- Expand utilities' access to additional spectrum bands
  - Work with the International Telecommunications Union and CITELE to advocate for harmonized spectrum allocations



# CYBERSECURITY

- Security is an increasingly critical issue in the face of repeated attacks
  - 101 attacks in the first 8 months of 2022, which doesn't even include the attacks in North Carolina or Washington, both of which left tens of thousands without power
  - Just 97 attacks in all of 2021
- UTC continues to address legal and regulatory developments in cybersecurity



# INCREASED REPORTING CONCERNS

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- Security agencies now have unprecedented authority to regulate and enforce critical infrastructure
  - Adds to the many other regulatory requirements already in place
  - Concerns that these additional measures will delay our members recovery efforts in the event of a reportable cyber incident



# Sheryl Riggs

President and CEO



[utc.org/journal](https://utc.org/journal)



[utc.org/blog](https://utc.org/blog)



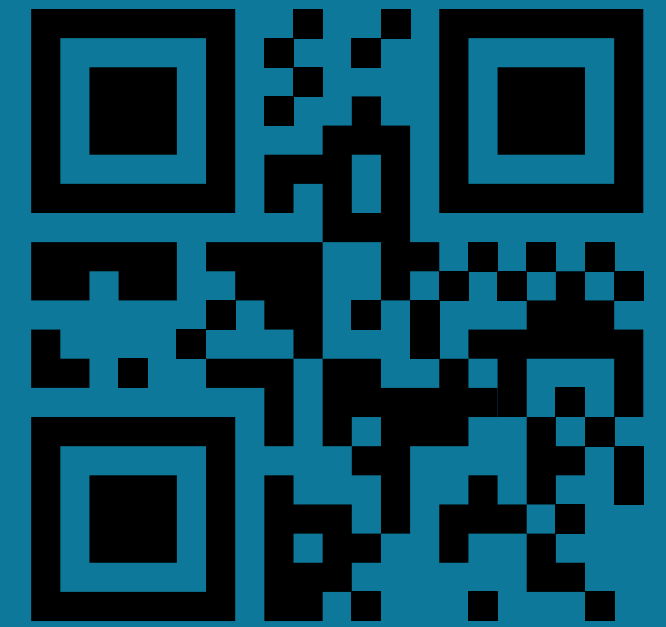
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Connect with UTC!



"It always seems  
**impossible**  
until it's **done.**"

Nelson Mandela

