

# Caroline County, Virginia

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Charles M. Culley, Jr.  
*County Administrator*



Caroline County, VA



R6/17

### **A RESOLUTION OPPOSING HB 2108 AND REQUESTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REJECT THIS AND ANY COMPANION BILL LIMITING OR IMPEDING BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT BY A LOCALITY**

**WHEREAS**, on January 11, 2017 House Bill No. 2108 ("HB 2108") was introduced to the Virginia General Assembly as the Virginia Broadband Deployment Act ("the Act"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors of Caroline County supports the expedited deployment of broadband access in the Commonwealth at an affordable cost but strongly believes that HB 2108 would produce results that directly conflict with this goal; and

**WHEREAS**, passage of the Act would greatly hinder the County's ability to improve and expand public access to broadband services, especially in unserved areas, by establishing severe restrictions and administrative burdens on the County's ability to improve and expand access to these services; and

**WHEREAS**, HB 2108 states that a locality shall not "provide loans, or issue notes or bonds, or facilitate the construction of facilities, to provide communication services"; and

**WHEREAS**, this prohibition is in direct conflict with the core foundation of the municipal broadband authorities being created in Virginia; specifically, the ability to leverage public investment, including existing infrastructure, to provide coverage where it currently does not exist; and

**WHEREAS**, the bill's proposed elimination of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act exemption that allows local governing bodies to hold discussions in closed session with commercial internet service providers

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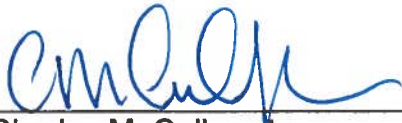
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would effectively limit the willingness of the providers to explore the creation of potential public-private partnerships to serve communities and partner successfully with localities to provide broadband; and

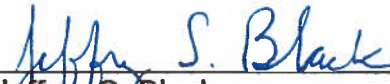
**WHEREAS**, passage of HB 2108 would make it virtually impossible for localities to determine how to deliver broadband access to their community and tie the hands of local government in all issues related to broadband.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Caroline County Board of Supervisors strongly opposes HB 2108 and urges the General Assembly to reject it and any companion bill limiting or impeding broadband development by a locality.

***Adopted this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2017.***



Charles M. Culley, Jr.  
Clerk to the Board



Jeffrey S. Black  
Chairman