



Roanoke Valley-Alleghany

REGIONAL
commission

rvarc.org

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RESOLUTION

OPPOSING HB 2108 AND REQUESTING THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND GOVERNOR REJECT THIS AND ANY RELATED BILLS LIMITING OR IMPEDING A LOCALITY'S CONTROL OF ITS PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission assisted in the creation of the Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority to encourage high value and sustainable economic development across the Region;

WHEREAS, the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission has assisted in broadband studies for rural localities that have limited, or no broadband options;

WHEREAS, the availability of high-speed, affordable internet services is an essential component of the technical infrastructure to attract, retain, and expand economic opportunities for localities in the Region;

WHEREAS, the quality of life within the Region is enhanced with the presence of 21st century industries and institutions that rely upon quality internet services;

WHEREAS, the opportunities and investments that member localities have made are threatened by legislation that seeks to create wholly unnecessary regulatory barriers to the growth of municipal broadband;

WHEREAS, legislation such as HB 2108, if enacted, will strengthen private monopolies that lack the incentive to expand high-speed quality and affordable internet services to all areas of our region, will once again provide them with no price competitiveness and long term planning, and hamper the ability of our region to compete with localities throughout the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission that:

1. The Commission acknowledges and reaffirms its unqualified support for the mission of the Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority (RVBA) and the opportunities that a fully developed regional broadband authority will provide the region and opposes enactment of HB 2108 or any other legislative initiative to impose regulatory barriers that will impede the creation, development, expansion, or sustainability of the RVBA or any other carefully planned municipal broadband project.

Member Governments: Counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Franklin and Roanoke, Cities of Covington, Roanoke and Salem, Towns of Clifton Forge, Rocky Mount and Vinton

2. The Commission urges the General Assembly and the Governor to oppose enactment of HB 2108, as presently drafted or as may be amended to restrict municipal broadband, and reaffirm their commitment, encouragement, and support to all localities in developing cooperative regional opportunities for economic growth, job creation, and enhancement of the quality of life for all Virginians.
3. The Commission asks the General Assembly and Governor to retain the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and the Virginia Wireless Service Authority Act, which HB 2108 undermines, and allow localities to determine their needs and make investments in public infrastructure, unhindered by unnecessary regulations.
4. The Commission directs the Secretary of the Regional Commission to provide copies of this Resolution to The Honorable Terence R. McAuliffe, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, The Honorable William J. Howell, Speaker of the House of Delegates of Virginia, The Honorable Ralph S. Northam, Lieutenant Governor and Presiding Officer of the Senate of Virginia, and all Delegates and Senators within the legislative delegation of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Region.

Adopted by the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission on the 26th day of January 2017.



Charles Wagner
Chairman