

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND GOVERNOR TO
OPPOSE HB 2108 OR ANY OTHER EFFORT TO UNDERMINE THE CREATION,
DEVELOPMENT, AND EXPANSION OF REGIONAL OR MUNICIPAL BROADBAND
UNDER THE VIRGINIA WIRELESS SERVICES ACT OR OTHER SECTIONS OF
THE CODE OF VIRGINIA.**

WHEREAS, Fauquier County is in the process of implementing a plan to construct broadband infrastructure in order to fill an unmet need for high speed internet as a critical tool in encouraging high value and sustainable economic development.

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 throughout the Commonwealth;

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

WHEREAS, the vitality of Fauquier County depends upon providing employment opportunities for our children and their families; and

WHEREAS, Fauquier County is home to numerous rural residents who commute to Northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the availability of adequate high speed internet would often permit these commuters to work from home and thereby reduce congestion, defer the need for additional transportation improvements, and reduced air pollution in the region; and

WHEREAS, the cable and telecommunications industry has consistently failed since the advent of the internet to provide broadband internet service to the County's rural residents; and

WHEREAS, the cable and telecommunications industry has frequently also failed to provide adequate, reasonably priced broadband in developed areas of the County at the level necessary to support high-tech and defense related contractors the County is otherwise well situated to attract; and

WHEREAS, the opportunities and investments of Fauquier County and our region are threatened by legislation that seeks to create wholly unnecessary regulatory barriers to the growth of regional broadband authorities; and

WHEREAS, prior cable and telecommunications industry-sponsored legislation purporting to increase the availability of broadband to rural Virginians, including "ordinance franchise" legislation has failed to accomplish the desired result; and

WHEREAS, legislation such as HB 2108, if enacted, will create de facto private monopolies that lack the incentive to expand high-speed quality and affordable internet services to the County, will provide them with no price competitiveness, and will hamper the ability of the County to compete with localities throughout the country;

WHEREAS, HB 2108, in enacted, will damage recent development efforts and successes experienced by Fauquier County and the many localities which have worked to improve broadband access in the Commonwealth and place them at a significant competitive disadvantage to other localities around the United States; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Fauquier County
That:

1. Fauquier County urges the General Assembly and the Governor to oppose enactment of HB 2108, as presently drafted or as may be amended, 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.
2. Fauquier County directs the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to provide attested 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, the Committee on Commerce and Labor, and all Delegates and Senators within the legislative delegation of Fauquier County.

ATTEST:

Clerk