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February 1, 2017

The Honorable Terry J. Kilgore
Chairman, House Commerce and Labor Committee
General Assembly Building, Room 704
Capitol Square
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Chairman Kilgore:

On January 19, 2017, the private-sector companies and national associations listed below sent you a letter urging the House Commerce and Labor Committee not to pass HB 2108. For the reasons set forth in that letter, HB 2108, in its original form, would have been bad for Virginia's communities and residents, bad for the private sector, particularly high-technology companies, and bad for America's global competitiveness. Shortly afterward, the sponsor of the original HB 2108 replaced it with a substitute bill.

We have carefully reviewed the substitute bill. While it removes some of the troubling provisions of the original bill, it remains a deeply flawed bill that would complicate, deter, or significantly delay community broadband initiatives and public-private partnerships.

This is a time when we need more, not fewer, options to ensure that all Virginians will have access to the benefits of advanced communications services and capabilities as rapidly as possible. Local elected leaders are in the best position to understand their communities' needs and to determine which option works best for them. They should not have their hands tied by artificial legal barriers such as the original or the substitute HB 2108.

We therefore urge you and the Committee to reject substitute HB 2108 as well any further amendments that would limit local Internet choice.

Sincerely,

Atlantic Engineering
Coalition for Local Internet Choice
CTC Energy & Technology
Fiber to the Home Council
Google
Indeed
Internet Association
National Association of Telecommunications
Officers and Advisors
Netflix
Next Century Cities
Nokia
OnTrac
Telecommunications Industry Association
Ting Internet
Utilities Technology Council

cc: The Honorable Governor Terry McAuliffe
Members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee
The Honorable Kathy Byron