

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ROANOKE COUNTY, VIRGINIA, HELD AT THE ROANOKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2017

**RESOLUTION 012417-2 URGING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND GOVERNOR TO REAFFIRM THEIR COMMITMENT TO EXPANSION OF HIGH SPEED QUALITY INTERNET SERVICE TO ALL REGIONS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA TO ENSURE A STRONGER AND MORE STABLE ECONOMY AND QUALITY OF LIFE BY OPPOSING HB 2108 OR ANY OTHER EFFORT TO UNDERMINE THE CREATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND EXPANSION OF REGIONAL OR MUNICIPAL BROADBAND AUTHORITIES CREATED UNDER THE VIRGINIA WIRELESS SERVICES ACT OR OTHER SECTIONS OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA**

WHEREAS, the County of Roanoke, in partnership with Botetourt County, the City of Roanoke, and the City of Salem created the Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority (RVBA) as a critical tool for encouraging high value and sustainable economic development across the Roanoke Valley; and

WHEREAS, the mission of RVBA is to improve high-speed internet services throughout Roanoke Valley and create collaboration and competition among institutions, government facilities, and businesses in an around the region; and

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 Roanoke Valley and throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life within Roanoke County and our region, Virginia's Blue Ridge, is enhanced with the presence of 21<sup>st</sup> century industries and institutions that rely upon quality internet services; and

WHEREAS, Roanoke County's economic future is threatened by legislation that seeks to create unnecessary regulatory barriers to the growth of regional broadband authorities; and

WHEREAS, legislation such as HB 2108, if enacted, will diminish competition in the marketplace, reduce private sector incentive to expand high-speed quality and affordable internet services to all areas of our region, limit price competitiveness for consumers, and hamper the ability of our region to compete with localities throughout the Country; and

WHEREAS, the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors desires to send a strong and unequivocal message to the General Assembly and the Governor that legislation such as HB 2108 is detrimental to economic growth and development.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Roanoke County, Virginia that:

1. Roanoke County reaffirms its support for the mission of RVBA and the opportunities that a fully developed regional broadband authority will provide the County and our 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 RVBA or other regional broadband authorities.

2. Roanoke 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 to all localities in developing cooperative regional opportunities for economic growth, job creation, and enhancement of the quality of life for all Virginians.

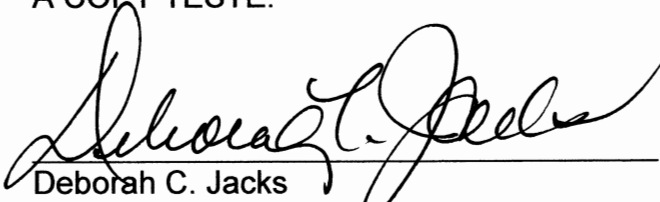
3. A copy of this resolution be provided to The Honorable Terence R. McAuliffe, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, The Honorable William J. Howell, Speaker of the House of Delegates of Virginia, The Honorable Ralph S. Northam, Lieutenant Governor and Presiding Officer of the Senate of Virginia, and all Delegates and Senators within the legislative delegation of Roanoke County and our region.

On motion of Supervisor McNamara to adopt the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Assaid and carried by the following recorded vote:

AYES: Supervisors Assaid, Hooker, Peters, McNamara

NAYS: Supervisor Bedrosian

A COPY TESTE:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah C. Jacks", written over a horizontal line.

Deborah C. Jacks  
Chief Deputy Clerk to the Board of Supervisors

cc: Mr. Thomas C. Gates, Roanoke County Administrator  
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; Presiding Officer of the Senate of Virginia  
The Honorable John S. Edwards, United States Senator  
The Honorable David R. Suetterlein, United States Senator  
The Honorable Stephen D. Newman, United States Senator  
The Honorable Gregory D. Habeeb, House of Delegates  
The Honorable Christopher Head, House of Delegates