

Challenge

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROANOKE, VIRGINIA
The 17th day of January, 2017.

No.40747-011717.

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

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;

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;

WHEREAS, the City of Roanoke, our partner localities, business leaders, and legislative delegation have collaborated on several opportunities to compete and attract significant economic development opportunities within the Roanoke Valley from around the United States

and the world and the successes are attributable, in part, on the available of internet services that RVBA will provide;

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

WHEREAS, the vitality of the City of Roanoke and our region, Virginia's Blue Ridge, depends upon providing employment opportunities for our children and their families;

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

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 all areas of our region, will once again provide them with no price competitiveness, and hamper the ability of our region to compete with localities throughout the country;

WHEREAS, legislation such as HB 2108, if enacted, will stymie the recent development opportunities and successes experienced by the City of Roanoke and our region, Virginia's Blue Ridge, and place the City of Roanoke and its regional partners at a significant competitive disadvantage to other localities around the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Council of the City of Roanoke, Virginia send a strong and unequivocal message to the General Assembly and the Governor that legislation such as HB 2108 be defeated.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Council of the City of Roanoke, Virginia that:

1. City Council acknowledges and reaffirms its unqualified support for the mission of RVBA and the opportunities that a fully developed regional broadband authority will provide

the City 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. City Council 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.

3. City Council directs the City Clerk 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, and all Delegates and Senators within the legislative delegation of the City of Roanoke and our region, Virginia's Blue Ridge.

ATTEST:

City Clerk.