



At a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Bedford, Virginia held at the Bedford County Administration Building on the 23rd day of January 2017, beginning at 7:00 pm.:

<u>MEMBERS:</u>	<u>VOTE:</u>
Curry Martin, Chairman	No
Bill Thomasson, Vice-Chairman	Absent
Steve Wilkerson	Yes
John Sharp	Absent
Tommy W. Scott	No
Andrew D. Dooley	Yes
Kevin S. Willis	Yes

On motion of Supervisor Dooley, which carried by a vote of 3-2, the following was adopted:

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 County of Bedford created the Bedford County Broadband Authority to encourage high value and sustainable economic development across the County;

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 Bedford County and throughout the Commonwealth;

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

WHEREAS, the opportunities and investments that Bedford County Broadband Authority offers to the County of Bedford and our region are threatened by legislation that seeks to create wholly unnecessary regulatory barriers to the growth of 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 Bedford County and our region, Region 2000, and place Bedford County and its regional partners at a significant competitive disadvantage to other localities around the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Board of Supervisors of Bedford County, Virginia send a strong and unequivocal message to the General Assembly and the Governor that legislation such as HB 2018 be defeated.

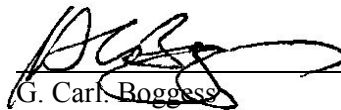
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF BEDFORD, VIRGINIA THAT:

1. The Board of Supervisors acknowledges and reaffirms its unqualified support for the mission of the Bedford County Broadband Authority (BCBA) 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 BCBA or other regional broadband authorities.

2. The Board of Supervisors 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. The Board of Supervisors directs the County Administrator 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 Count of Bedford and our region, Region 2000.

A Copy-Teste:



G. Carl Roggess
County Administrator