

**National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors
National League of Cities
National Association of Counties**

July 3, 2014

FCC Chairman Thomas Wheeler
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Thank you for your leadership in examining broadband deployment and the role of local governments in this field. We write today to support your efforts to eliminate barriers to municipal broadband networks and ensure that our local communities have options to address their broadband needs.

Cities and counties provide a wide range of services to residents including public safety, health care, education, infrastructure and economic development and are intimately involved in the day to day activities of their citizens. The diversity of cities and counties in America also reflect differing values and needs. As such, Local governments should have the flexibility to address broadband and Internet access in a way that meets the needs of the people they serve.

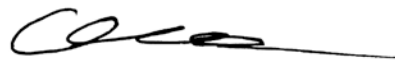
The importance of Internet choice at the local level has never been more important. In many places in the U.S, locally-driven projects—including innovative partnerships with private sector companies—have demonstrated that local creativity and local authority is a viable means by which new next-generation broadband infrastructure can emerge.

We applaud your commitment to local Internet choice and our groups stand ready to assist in your efforts as you move forward with eliminating barriers to municipal broadband networks.

Sincerely,



Steve Traylor
Executive Director
National Association of Telecommunications
Officers and Advisors



Clarence Anthony
Executive Director
National League of Cities



Matthew Chase
Executive Director
National Association of Counties