

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FCC EFFORTS TO ENSURE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE ABLE TO INVEST IN ESSENTIAL INTERNET INFRASTRUCTURE, IF THEY SO CHOOSE, WITHOUT STATE-IMPOSED BARRIERS TO DISCOURAGE SUCH AN APPROACH

WHEREAS, the universal availability of affordable high speed Internet access for all citizens has been identified as a national priority; and

WHEREAS, community/municipal broadband networks provide an option for market competition, consumer choice, economic development, and universal, affordable Internet access; and

WHEREAS, historically, local governments have ensured access to essential services by banding together to provide those services that were not offered by the private sector at a reasonable and competitive cost. This involvement has included electrification, public libraries, and other important services; and

WHEREAS, local government leaders recognize that their economic health and survival depend on connecting their communities, and they understand that it takes both private and public investment to achieve this goal; and

WHEREAS, attempts have been made at the state level to limit or stop further local government deployment of municipal Internet services through legislation, which has the potential of reducing the ability of local government to provide important information and services to their citizens in a timely, efficient, and cost effective manner; and

WHEREAS, local governments, being closest to the people are the most accountable level of government and will be held responsible for any decisions they make; and

WHEREAS, the DC Circuit Court has determined that Section 706 of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 unambiguously grants authority to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to remove barriers that deter network infrastructure investment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Vidalia, State of Louisiana, supports FCC efforts to ensure local governments are able to invest in essential Internet infrastructure, if they so choose, without state-imposed barriers to discourage such an approach.

THE ABOVE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED AT THE MARCH 11, 2014
MEETING AND THE VOTE WAS RECORDED AS FOLLOWS:

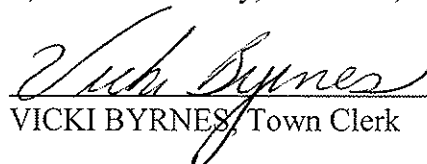
YEAS:	4	(Aldermen Betts, Knapp, McCoy, and Stevens)
NAYS:		
ABSTAINING:		
ABSENT:	1	(Alderwoman Saunders)



HYRAM COPELAND, Mayor,
Vidalia, Louisiana

CERTIFICATE

I, Vicki Byrnes, Town Clerk for the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, do certify the above Resolution to be a true and exact extract from the minutes of the regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Vidalia, Louisiana, held on Tuesday, March 11, 2014.



VICKI BYRNES, Town Clerk