

**City Council Memorandum**  
**15-27**

February 24, 2015

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: William L. Sorah, City Manager

SUBJECT: Resolution 15-8  
Requesting Legislative Support Regarding Local Broadband and Internet Services

The Tennessee Municipal Electric Power Association is encouraging municipal power providers and local governments to support proposed SB1134/HB1303 related to municipal broadband expansion. The proposed legislation removes the current limitation on the service area available to municipal electric broadband providers. Municipal electric broadband providers are currently restricted to providing broadband service only in their electric service territory. High-speed broadband is a basic service requirement in today's digital world. The service is an essential element of economic development, enhances educational opportunities, increases regional and global competitiveness, and provides a better quality of life. While we enjoy the benefits of being a "Gigabit Community", there are many areas of Tennessee that lack access to high-speed broadband service. The ability to extend this service beyond the municipal electric service territory will provide an opportunity for customers to choose their provider and ensure a high quality of broadband service at a competitive price.

The Bristol Tennessee Essential Services Board of Directors will consider a similar resolution supporting the proposed legislation at their March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. The ability to extend broadband service beyond the existing service territory will give municipal electric systems and local communities more options to serve ratepayers and citizens.

  
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William L. Sorah

Cc: Jack Hyder

**Resolution No. 15-8**

**A Resolution Declaring Support for Senate Bill 1134 and House Bill 1303  
Pending in the 109<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the State of Tennessee**

WHEREAS, the City of Bristol owns and operates a municipal electric system known as Bristol Tennessee Essential Services ("BTES"); and

WHEREAS, in addition to providing electricity BTES offers state of the art broadband and internet services; and

WHEREAS, legislation designated as Senate Bill 1134 and House Bill 1303 ("SB1134/HB1303") is pending before the 109<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, SB1134/HB1303 would remove certain barriers which restrict the provision of broadband and internet services by municipal electric systems; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bristol desires to express its support for SB1134/HB1303.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Bristol Tennessee hereby declares its support for SB1134/HB1303 and urges the 109<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the State of Tennessee to enact such legislation.

WHEREUPON, Mayor Powers declared the Resolution adopted, affixed her signature and the date thereto, and directed that the same be recorded.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lea Powers, Mayor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Tara E. Musick, City Recorder

Approved as to Form and Legality  
this \_\_\_\_\_ day of February, 2015

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Jack W. Hyder, Jr., City Attorney