Dear Mayor Berke and Mayor Rose,

As mayors and city leaders who are working to make sure our citizens have access to next-generation broadband, we are writing to express our support and solidarity with your efforts advocating for the ability of all communities to choose the broadband solutions that are right for each of our communities.

We, the undersigned 42 mayors and city leaders, are proud to stand with you as part of Next Century Cities, a non-profit collaborative that helps us join our voices to ensure we have self-determination at the local level. We believe in aligning broadband options with community needs, instead of being hindered by restrictive, one-size-fits-all barriers sometimes put up at the state level.

As mayors, we know that there is no single best solution for supporting connectivity in our communities. Different communities have different needs. Together, our methods for supporting internet access range from working with incumbent providers, to public-private partnerships, to the municipal broadband models used in your cities.

While our paths vary, we are united by our commitment to competition and the right of self-determination for all our communities, free from interference. The recent decision from the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit was a disappointing reminder that the ability of local communities to make our own internet decisions remains at risk.

We are concerned about the detrimental impact overturning the Federal Communication Commission’s 2015 ruling will have on community members’ ability to access fast, affordable broadband internet access, and how it will prevent the expansion of your cities’ broadband networks to neighboring underserved communities, as well as what it could mean in communities nationwide.

Notably, in their narrow legal decision on a statute, the Sixth Circuit judges acknowledged the public benefits and commercial success of your communities’ networks.

All of us increasingly rely on next-generation broadband internet access for the economic vitality of our businesses, the education of our students, and the wellbeing of our citizens. We oppose restrictive state broadband barriers that limit the capacity of local communities to thrive, like those that hinder expansion in Tennessee and North Carolina, and similar burdensome and unnecessary state laws that many of us struggle with as well.

We are writing today to stand with you and offer our voices in the fight to support local broadband choice.
Sincerely,

Mayor Dana Kirkham  
Ammon, Idaho  

Mayor Martin J. Walsh  
Boston, Massachusetts  

Mayor John Henry  
Carbondale, Illinois  

Mayor Dorothy Knauss  
Chewelah, Washington  

Mayor Lioneld Jordan  
Fayetteville, Arkansas  

Mayor Don Boeder  
Gaylord, Minnesota  

Mayor David S. Gysberts  
Hagerstown, Maryland  

Mayor-President Joel Robideaux  
Lafayette, Louisiana  

Select Board Member Peter d'Errico  
Leverett, Massachusetts  

Mayor Greg Fischer  
Louisville, Kentucky  

Mayor Paul R. Soglin  
Madison, Wisconsin  

Commissioner Adam Friedrich  
Medina County, Ohio  

Councilmember Hans Riemer  
Montgomery County, Maryland  

Mayor Rex Swanson  
Montrose, Colorado  

Mayor Jill Boudreau  
Mount Vernon, Washington  

Mayor David J. Narkewicz  
Northampton, Massachusetts  

Mayor Libby Schaaf  
Oakland, California  

Mayor Homer Nicholson  
Ponca City, Oklahoma  

Mayor John R. Curtis  
Provo, Utah  

Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr.  
Roanoke, Virginia  

Mayor Karen Kirks Alexander  
Salisbury, North Carolina  

Councilman Ron Nirenberg  
San Antonio, Texas  

Mayor Pauline R. Cutter  
San Leandro, California  

Mayor Bill King  
Sandy, Oregon  

City Council President Jeremy Pietzold  
Sandy, Oregon  

Mayor Cynthia Mathews  
Santa Cruz, California  

Supervisor Ryan Coonerty  
Santa Cruz County, California  

Supervisor Zach Friend  
Santa Cruz County, California  

Mayor Tony Vazquez  
Santa Monica, California  

Mayor Edward B. Murray  
Seattle, Washington
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