



Mayor Andy Berke  
City of Chattanooga  
101 East 11th Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402

Mayor C. Bruce Rose  
City of Wilson  
112 Goldsboro Street East  
Wilson, NC 27893

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 John Henry**  
Carbondale, Illinois

**Mayor Lioneld Jordan**  
Fayetteville, Arkansas

**Mayor David S. Gysberts**  
Hagerstown, Maryland

**Select Board Member Peter d'Errico**  
Leverett, Massachusetts

**Mayor Paul R. Soglin**  
Madison, Wisconsin

**Councilmember Hans Riemer**  
Montgomery County, Maryland

**Mayor Jill Boudreau**  
Mount Vernon, Washington

**Mayor Libby Schaaf**  
Oakland, California

**Mayor John R. Curtis**  
Provo, Utah

**Mayor Karen Kirks Alexander**  
Salisbury, North Carolina

**Mayor Pauline R. Cutter**  
San Leandro, California

**City Council President Jeremy Pietzold**  
Sandy, Oregon

**Supervisor Ryan Coonerty**  
Santa Cruz County, California

**Mayor Tony Vazquez**  
Santa Monica, California

**Mayor Martin J. Walsh**  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Mayor Dorothy Knauss**  
Chewelah, Washington

**Mayor Don Boeder**  
Gaylord, Minnesota

**Mayor-President Joel Robideaux**  
Lafayette, Louisiana

**Mayor Greg Fischer**  
Louisville, Kentucky

**Commissioner Adam Friedrich**  
Medina County, Ohio

**Mayor Rex Swanson**  
Montrose, Colorado

**Mayor David J. Narkewicz**  
Northampton, Massachusetts

**Mayor Homer Nicholson**  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

**Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr.**  
Roanoke, Virginia

**Councilman Ron Nirenberg**  
San Antonio, Texas

**Mayor Bill King**  
Sandy, Oregon

**Mayor Cynthia Mathews**  
Santa Cruz, California

**Supervisor Zach Friend**  
Santa Cruz County, California

**Mayor Edward B. Murray**  
Seattle, Washington



Connecting Communities

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**Mayor Earl M. Leiken**  
Shaker Heights, Ohio

**Mayor Stephanie A. Miner**  
Syracuse, New York

**Mayor Lane Curlee**  
Tullahoma, Tennessee

**Councilmember Jack Burkman**  
Vancouver, Washington

**City Council President Dr. Robert Wack**  
Westminster, Maryland

**Council President Karen Wintrow**  
Yellow Springs, OH

**Mayor Thomas E. Blake**  
South Portland, Maine

**Mayor Corey Napier**  
Thompson's Station, Tennessee

**Mayor Laurel Prussing**  
Urbana, Illinois

**Mayor Kevin R. Utz**  
Westminster, Maryland

**Mayor Kelly Pierson**  
Winthrop, MN

**Council Vice President Brian Housh**  
Yellow Springs, OH