



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

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
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Thompson's Station, Tennessee

Mayor Laurel Prussing
Urbana, Illinois

Mayor Kevin R. Utz
Westminster, Maryland

Mayor Kelly Pierson
Winthrop, Minnesota

Council Vice President Brian Housh
Yellow Springs, Ohio