

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO AGAINST HOUSE BILL 1587**  
**“The Local Government Fair Competition Act”**

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 1587, “The Local Government Fair Competition Act,” has been entered into the 2007 of the General Assembly of North Carolina, and has passed from the House Public Utilities Committee to the House Finance Committee for consideration;

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of House Bill 1587 is to greatly hinder local governments from providing needed communications services, in particular advanced high-speed broadband services, where such services are non-existent;

**WHEREAS**, private companies, despite having received favorable regulatory and tax treatment to enable broadband investment, have chosen not to make the investment necessary to provide such top quality services but rather to offer lesser quality slow non-state-of-the-art infrastructure technologies and to make even such lesser quality service available to less than all municipal residents;

**WHEREAS**, while private companies declare top quality service is cost prohibitive in our country and spare no expense in legislative lobbying campaigns against private-public partnerships, the United States continues to fall in world-wide standings of broadband capability;

**WHEREAS**, U.S. broadband capability has fallen behind the United Kingdom, Korea, France, Japan and Canada to name a few, and Japan has internet access that is at least 500 times faster than what is considered high-speed in the United States;

**WHEREAS**, broadband internet is a new public utility necessary to compete in the global economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the deployment of true high-speed broadband systems in all our local communities is of vital importance to future economic development and community growth in North Carolina to replace lost textile, tobacco, furniture and manufacturing jobs;

**WHEREAS**, the General Assembly has already established the 1) rules for Public Enterprise (NCGS § 160A Article 16), 2) regulations through the Budget and Fiscal Control Act (NCGS §159 Article 3), and oversight by the Local Government Commission (NCGS §Article 2) in which a local government must abide in order to undertake providing an enterprise service to its community;

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 1587 is counter to the Local Development Act of 1925 as established NCGS §158 that allows local governments to aid and encourage economic development in communities throughout North Carolina;

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina law has long permitted local governments to engage in public enterprises and where there is no justification for treating communications enterprises any differently from other public enterprises;

**WHEREAS**, historically it was government that funded much of the current corporate telecommunications infrastructure in the United States and government paid for and developed the Internet;

**WHEREAS**, the re-combining of telecommunications companies (such as AT&T and the “baby Bells”) continues to result in planned layoffs, the inability to meet the demands of new and re-locating businesses for true high-speed broadband results in such businesses locating elsewhere, and the fact that there are telecommunications designers and equipment manufacturers and suppliers located in North Carolina who will be negatively impacted if local government is not allowed to provide needed communications services mean that **North Carolina will stand to lose more jobs by not investing** in top-quality broadband infrastructure than it will lose due to government provision of such services.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO** is against the passage of House Bill 1587 and urges all members of the North Carolina General Assembly to vote “NO” in Committee and if necessary on the floor of the General Assembly.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Greensboro, NC on June 19, 2007.

Juanita F. Cooper  
City Clerk