



SouthEast Association of Telecommunications Officers & Advisors  
Georgia – North Carolina – South Carolina – Tennessee

## **SEATOA OPPOSES HB1587 – (The Local Government Fair Competition Act)**

### **HB1587 WILL CRIPPLE NORTH CAROLINA'S FUTURE ECONOMIC GROWTH BY LIMITING ACCESS TO BROADBAND NETWORKS**

#### **HB1587 will prohibit North Carolina communities from deploying essential high-speed broadband networks – even in partnership with the private sector**

- Restrictive bonding terms will prohibit local governments from obtaining bonds to finance local broadband systems.
- Limitations on financing for operational expenses will prevent local governments from using federal or state grants or general fund revenues to start-up or operate local broadband systems – including regional public safety networks.
- Redundant, burdensome accounting and reporting requirements will harness local government with an administrative nightmare, for even the simplest of wireless systems - costing taxpayers more money in lost efficiency and heightened personnel costs and slowing down system deployments.

#### **HB1587 will cripple North Carolina's ability to compete in the global economy:**

- Half of North Carolina's population live in rural areas that have lost their tobacco, furniture and textile jobs overseas.
- Access to true, high speed broadband networks - remain the last hope to save North Carolina's economy. The capacity of broadband networks must match global information resources in order to bring North Carolina's work force to the doorstep of the global marketplace.
- North Carolina's incumbent communications providers have concluded the state's rural and distressed urban areas are not profitable markets for their broadband deployments.
- HB1587 will prevent North Carolina's local governments from deploying the necessary high speed broadband networks – especially in places where the industry refuses to serve – including our rural and distressed urban areas.

#### **HB1587 sets a dangerous precedent for prohibiting the operation of all public enterprises by local governments – including water and sewer services**

- The passage of HB1587 creates a dangerous precedent for prohibiting local governments from operating the type of public enterprises they have operated for decades– including water, sewer, airports, and sports stadiums.

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**DON'T SHUT THE G.A.T.E. – Greater Access to Technology for Everyone**

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