

STATEMENT OF PETER PITSCH  
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Submitted to  
SPEAKER JOE HACKNEY  
AND MEMBERS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES  
Concerning HB 1587, The Local Government Fair Competition Act  
June 18, 2007

Intel is the world's largest semiconductor manufacturer and a leading technology company. We have a longstanding interest in promoting public policies that foster broadband deployment and facilities-based competition. We respectfully submit these comments on HB 1587, for your consideration.

Many municipalities across the US are considering ways to promote broadband networks in their communities. Legitimate concerns have been raised about the merits of such public-sector efforts, but Intel believes state laws prohibiting or erecting barriers to these efforts are a mistake. Some promising cooperative efforts between municipalities and multiple private sector partners already exist or are underway.

Presumptively, municipalities should follow common sense guidelines designed to promote competitive neutrality that is reasonable for their particular circumstances. Because circumstances vary, however, statewide blanket prescriptions are unwise. Some municipalities may find private sector partners able to provide all of their services. Others may find private partners able to provide some, but not all, of the services they require. Still others – because of their small size or remote location – may not find any private sector partners willing or able to provide their services. The key is that municipalities use open, transparent and neutral processes to determine the reasonable level of private sector involvement, and apply their ordinances and rules without discrimination in favor of themselves or affiliated providers.

In summary, Intel supports allowing municipalities to pursue network solutions that are arrived at through open, transparent processes and are reasonably competitively neutral. We believe that framework encourages public-private partnerships that advance the goal of making affordable and high quality broadband available to all Americans.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ Peter K. Pitsch

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