



City Of Raleigh
North Carolina

June 15, 2007

The Honorable Paul Luebke
Senior Chairman
Finance Committee
North Carolina House of Representatives
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Representative Luebke:

The City of Raleigh supports the position of the North Carolina League of Municipalities and respectfully requests that you vote "no" on HB1587 -- "*The Local Government Fair Competition Act*," now reported to the House Finance Committee.

We all recognize that access to high speed internet service is essential for the future economic development of our state, and to replace our lost textile, tobacco and furniture base. In many cases local governments are the only entities that have expressed interest in providing high speed and other communications services.

As the North Carolina League of Municipalities, numerous local elected officials and other consumer oriented organizations have recognized, HB1587 would impose unfair and unnecessary regulatory restrictions and requirements on local government's ability to provide high speed Internet service to their community.

The cable and telephone industries are not and will not be subject to any of these proposed new regulatory requirements. The cable and telephone industries are not even subject to accountability requirements comparable to those already in place for local governments. The current "playing field" is already tilted in their favor.

Please don't prevent local governments from bringing essential high speed broadband to our communities, especially to rural and distressed urban areas where the industry has made it clear they have no intention of investing. Please vote no on HB1587.

Respectfully,

Thomas McCormick
City Attorney