



ADVANCING GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

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June 27, 2008

The Honorable Paul Luebke
Senior Chairman, Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
North Carolina General Assembly
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 529
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

RE: Telecommunication Industry Association's opposition to HB 1587, The Local Government Fair Competition Act.

Dear Senior Chairman Luebke:

On behalf of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), I am writing to request that you oppose HB 1587, the Local Government Fair Competition Act, as amended by the House Public Utilities Committee. HB 1587, which is currently pending before the House Finance Committee, would effectively bar municipal governments from owning, operating or otherwise providing next generation broadband service to the residents of North Carolina.

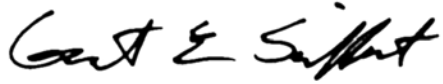
TIA is a leading trade association for the information and communications technology industry, with 600 member companies that manufacture or supply the products and services used to provide or access broadband-enabled services. Our members supply equipment that is used to deploy broadband networks across the United States, including municipal broadband networks.

Broadband deployment not only spurs local and national economies, it acts as an important resource for commerce, employment, education, and healthcare. This is particularly important in states comprised of primarily rural areas, such as North Carolina. Municipal broadband networks play a crucial role in providing these benefits, and HB 1587 threatens the ability of municipalities to provide these services derived from broadband.

While broadband offers many social and economic benefits to local communities, private enterprises are unlikely invest in areas where provision is not profitable. Municipal networks can fill this role in underserved areas. Further, in areas where private networks exist, municipal networks provide competition, which results in lower prices and higher quality products and services for consumers.

If HB 1587 is enacted it will act as a hindrance to ensuring that all North Carolina residents receive these benefits. For these reasons, TIA hopes that you and your fellow lawmakers oppose this bill and guarantee that all Americans have access to broadband.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant E. Seiffert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Grant" being the most prominent.

Grant Seiffert
TIA President