



PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OF WILSON APPLAUDS FCC CHAIRMAN WHEELER AND THE COMMISSION FOR ITS LEADERSHIP IN DECIDING IN FAVOR OF LOCAL BROADBAND CHOICE

Wilson, N.C. -- The City of Wilson applauds FCC Chairman Wheeler and the Commission for their leadership today in approving the City's petition to preempt a North Carolina state law that restricts municipal Gigabit broadband deployment. Today's historic decision now enables Wilson and other North Carolina municipalities to provide the Gigabit broadband infrastructure and services that North Carolina and America need in order to remain competitive in our emerging knowledge-based global economy.

Wilson filed this petition not with immediate plans to expand into its rural neighboring communities, but to facilitate the future advancement of its critical Gigabit fiber-optic infrastructure over the long term. Going forward, the City will continue to expand its Gigabit network in the same measured and responsible manner it has utilized in the past, as opportunities and resources allow. The FCC's decision will also permit the City to share its experience, knowledge and expertise with other communities to help foster the growth of critical economic infrastructure for their businesses and residents.

By its action today, the FCC has empowered local North Carolina communities to do whatever it takes for all of our citizens to realize the benefits of access to essential Gigabit infrastructure in our beautiful state. All possibilities are now on the table, whether through public-private partnerships or municipally-owned broadband networks, to ensure North Carolina's businesses and residents remain competitive in the global economy.