

**VOTE “NO” ON REP. AVILA’S and SEN APODACA’S
NO BROADBAND, JOBS, OR INVESTMENT IN NC bill
(H129/S87)**



Access to broadband is critical to the future economic development of our state to create jobs, grow business, educate our students and keep our young people from leaving. Communities build advanced broadband systems because the private companies are not.

- **PRIVATE CABLE AND TELCO COMPANIES HAVE STOPPED BROADBAND INVESTING IN HUGE CHUNKS OF OUR STATE** - Half of North Carolina’s population live in rural areas, but our state’s largest broadband providers tell us they can’t invest in our rural (and semi-rural) areas because our homes are too far apart and/or our incomes are too low. Counties are reporting that parents are sitting in school parking lots so their kids can do their homework using school wifi. Even our semi rural areas can’t get reliable cell phone service!
- **BIG CABLE AND BIG TELCOS CAN’T INVEST IN ADVANCED FIBER BROADBAND BECAUSE THEY ARE TOO LOADED WITH DEBT** from years of mergers and acquisitions; and their sparse investment funds must be targeted to high profit, dense, urban areas. As a result, even China has more fiber-to-the-home systems now than the U.S.
- **COMMUNITY BROADBAND SYSTEMS ARE BUILT TO STIMULATE THE PRIVATE SECTOR** North Carolina communities are building advanced infrastructure because the private sector is not, to keep and attract local businesses, and jobs, train our students and workers, provide access to advanced energy, health care, public safety services.
- **THIS BILL, WRITTEN BY BIG CABLE -- WILL NOT “PERMIT,” BUT WILL SHUT DOWN EXISTING & FUTURE COMMUNITY BROADBAND SYSTEMS & REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY NETWORKS** by limiting their service areas, severely constricting the funds they can use to build or improve their systems, and making them charge subscribers for costs that don’t exist.
- **THIS BILL CONTAINS A PROVISION WHERE PRIVATE COMPANIES CAN THEN BUY THESE ADVANCED COMMUNITY BROADBAND SYSTEMS WITHOUT A PUBLIC VOTE** (§160A-340.1(b))
- **THIS BILL WILL PREVENT PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS, INCLUDING GOOGLE FIBER,** by limiting funding of community broadband facilities to taxpayer funded bonds.
- **THIS BILL IS NOT LEVEL - IT BURDENS COMMUNITY BROADBAND SYSTEMS WITH REGULATIONS PRIVATE COMPANIES ARE NOT SUBJECT TO - REGULATIONS THAT CONGRESS HAS FORBIDDEN TO BE PLACED ON CABLE AND BROADBAND SYSTEMS** (1984 Cable Act and full broadband deregulation)

**North Carolina communities have lost their tobacco, furniture and textile jobs overseas.
Access to real broadband networks represents the last hope to save our economy.
DON’T DENY, ESPECIALLY RURAL NORTH CAROLINA, REAL BROADBAND!**



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

VOTE “NO” ON REP. AVILA’S and SEN APODACA’S NO BROADBAND, NO JOBS, OR INVESTMENT IN RURAL NORTH CAROLINA bill (H129/S87)



Access to broadband is critical to the future economic development of our state to create jobs, grow business, educate our students, provide access to modern health care, and keep our young people from leaving our communities. This bill prevents rural communities from obtaining access to advanced broadband services, available in urban areas, by effectively prohibiting broadband deployments by anyone except the private companies who have decided they cannot invest in broadband for rural NC.

- **THIS BILL DENIES JOBS AND INVESTMENT IN RURAL AREAS BY DENYING THEM ACCESS TO BROADBAND** Municipal broadband systems typically develop where the private sector has declined to provide advanced broadband service, communities often characterized by low incomes and low household density. By burdening municipal broadband providers with financial and regulatory requirements (not placed on private providers), this bill renders municipal broadband systems inoperable, denying our rural areas any hope for reliable or advanced broadband and the associated business investment and jobs.
- **THIS BILL HARMS STUDENTS LIVING IN RURAL AREAS BY DENYING THEM BROADBAND ACCESS** Students must have access to high speed broadband to complete homework assignments and research, and to develop globally competitive skills. School curriculums are increasingly shifting away from books to the internet. By burdening municipal broadband providers with financial and regulatory requirements (not placed on private providers), this bill renders inoperable municipal broadband systems which could offer advanced broadband service in areas the private companies are unwilling to serve. By relegating rural students to no or limited internet, this bill will deny them access to educational and work opportunities and to globally competitive skills available to their urban counterparts.
- **THIS BILL WILL DENY MODERN HOSPITAL CARE TO RURAL RESIDENTS BY DENYING THEM BROADBAND ACCESS** Physical distance to specialized hospital care often determines life or death. Doctors and specialized healthcare providers are increasingly using high speed broadband systems to relay medical information and render health care from afar, removing hours of physical travel by patients. The bill prohibits municipal broadband providers from reaching outside their municipal border into counties to serve rural hospitals and clinics, denying rural residents access to advanced broadband service needed for modern healthcare.
- **THIS BILL WILL SHUT DOWN REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY NETWORKS SERVING RURAL AREAS** Rural communities often partner with neighboring towns for the provision of public safety communications networks, forming fee-based regional networks. This bill prohibits regional public safety networks by limiting municipal communications services to municipal borders.
- **THIS BILL WILL PREVENT PUBLIC/PRIVATE BROADBAND PARTNERSHIPS, INCLUDING GOOGLE FIBER** By limiting the financing of community broadband facilities to taxpayer funded bonds, this bill prevents public and private partnerships that could be used to bring broadband to high-cost rural areas. This bill would disqualify the seven (7) rural counties who applied for the Google Fiber partnerships.

**NC’S LARGE PRIVATE COMPANIES ARE NOT PROVIDING BROADBAND TO RURAL NC
DON’T DENY RURAL NORTH CAROLINA ACCESS TO MUNICIPAL BROADBAND**



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