

March 20, 2009

Dear Mayor Foy and Council,

Please pass a resolution in opposition to and urging the defeat of North Carolina Senate Bill 1004 (S1004). This bill was submitted on March 25 by North Carolina Senator Hoyle of Gaston County.

Almost two years ago the Council passed a similar resolution in opposition to North Carolina House Bill 1587. This new bill has the same goal of preventing municipalities from providing broadband services. In 2007 Orange County, the Town of Carrboro, Google, Intel, and many other North Carolina municipalities joined you in your opposition.


As of February 2009 unemployment rates in North Carolina are at 10.7 percent. That is the fourth highest rate in the country. Senate Bill 1004 could make it worse and prevent our State's economy from improving. It would do this by making it very difficult to use money from the Federal Economic stimulus package intended for public broadband development. Please think about the unemployed and oppose all legislation that would harm them. The people of Chapel Hill need new jobs!

A great way to create high paying jobs in Chapel Hill is by providing broadband at fiber speeds. It must be more prevalent and faster than it currently is in Chapel Hill. Affordable fiber broadband is one of the best incentives you could give to companies large and small. Let's be the first community in the Triangle to do this.

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, the President of the North Carolina chapter of the NACCP, has made it clear that equal access to broadband is a civil right issue. On March 7 at the Internet for Everyone Event Rev. Barber spoke about the need for an open and affordable communications medium that can help bring about justice. "If we are not logged-in then we are locked-out." he said "Information has always been a battle between the haves and the have-nots."

Thank you for your service to the people of Chapel Hill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian C. Russell".

Brian C. Russell
138 Ridge Trail
Chapel Hill, NC 27510