**Wireless Resolution**

Whereas, in the 2017 General Assembly Session localities worked with the telecommunications industry (“the industry”) to pass SB1282, which was a compromise bill providing a pathway to small cell telecommunications facilities to be located on existing structures; and

Whereas, VML and VACo and the industry agreed to discuss how to assist underserved areas after the session; and

Whereas, the industry officials did not engage in meaningful discussions regarding underserved areas and only wanted to discuss a further erosion of local land use authority regarding new structures; and

Whereas, 2018 legislation by the Industry (HB1258 and SB405) proposes to eliminate most local control over the installation and operation of new structures and the replacement of current technology; and

Whereas, 2018 legislation by the Industry (HB1427 and SB823) propose to set rights-of-way fees in the state code for the use of locally owned rights of way; and

Whereas, this legislation mandates a ministerial process which eliminates the ability for local officials, residents and businesses to have meaningful input into decisions affecting the character of their own communities; and

Whereas, this legislation represents a shift in authority, moving decision-making authority from the community and local elected officials to for-profit corporations that install wireless equipment; and

Whereas, the wireless equipment installations can have significant health, safety and aesthetics impacts but those companies have little, if any, interest in taking into account those concerns that potentially conflict with their profit margins.

Now Therefore, be it Resolved that the (Council/Board) of the (City/Town/County of \_\_\_\_), Virginia formally requests that the members of the Virginia General Assembly OPPOSE any telecommunications legislation that would further erode local land use authority and remove input from local elected officials.

Now Therefore, Be it Further Resolved, that the (Council/Board) of the (City/Town/County of \_\_\_\_), Virginia directs the Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to the delegates and senators representing the (City/Town/County); Delegate Terry Kilgore and Senator Ryan McDougle, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Virginia Municipal League.