May 19, 2017

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Accelerating Broadband Deployment, GN Docket No. 17-83 and Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment, WT Docket No. 17-79

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 16, 207, the undersigned, along with Vice Mayor David Luna of the City of Mesa, Arizona; Becky Taylor, Manager of Research and Federal Advocacy for the Georgia Municipal Association; and Councilmember Lisa Clark Hill of the City of Moultrie, Georgia met with Commissioner Mignon Clyburn and Daudeline Meme, Legal Advisor.

During the meeting, we discussed the newly-formed Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC), as well as the above referenced Public Notice. We echoed the concerns raised by Mayor Sam Liccardo’s representative during the first BDAC meeting about insufficient representation of local governments on the Committee. While additional highly qualified local representatives have been appointed to several of the BDAC working groups, the National League of Cities continued to urge the Commission to increase the number and diversity of local officials on the BDAC to a level comparable with the number and diversity of industry officials. NLC asked the Commission to prioritize gaining input from local officials throughout the BDAC’s work.

We also discussed the pending wireless item, “Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment,” and NLC’s strong opposition to further restrictions of local authority. We thanked Commissioner
Clyburn for her remarks during the April Open Meeting on preemption of local governments. We urged the Commission not to further pursue regulation on wireless siting matters as they pertain to local governments until the work of the BDAC has progressed and the group has had a chance to convene and make recommendations. We discussed the strong desire by local governments to ensure that their residents have access to reliable broadband service, and to work collaboratively with providers to ensure that service is made available. We encouraged the Commission to work in the direction of partnership with, rather than preemption of, local officials, who share the Commission’s goal of closing the digital divide. We urged the Commission to work with local governments and their associations, as well as members of the industry and their associations, to create further opportunities for education, outreach, and collaboration as local officials work to better understand evolving wireless technologies and adapt their local codes and ordinances to reflect current needs.

This letter is being filed electronically pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission’s Rules. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/Angelina Panettieri  
Principal Associate, Technology and Communications  
National League of Cities