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I support Chattanooga's petition that the FCC preempt and declare unenforceable the portion of Tennessee law that currently prevents Chattanooga EPB from providing broadband services outside its current service area. More generally, I support FCC's preempting and declaring unenforceable any state law to the extent that it limits the rights of municipalities to provide broadband services.

I'm an advocate for citywide municipal fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) in Palo Alto, CA. We benefit from the examples of successful municipal FTTP providers such as Chattanooga EPB.

Municipalities don't need a nanny state to protect them from making investments in broadband lest they be imprudent. Local government is better able to understand and respond to the needs and aspirations of its community than is state government. A community is better able to hold its local government accountable for its actions than it is state government.

The telecom incumbents might wish for and lobby for a nanny state to protect them from the competition of alternative broadband providers such as municipalities, but I think they should not get that protection.