

Resolution Supporting Broadband

Sponsored by Mayor Hardie Davis (Augusta, GA)

Whereas, access to broadband internet service has increasingly become a necessity to work and learn from home; and

Whereas, broadband service is not broadly available in rural areas and low-income communities; and

Whereas, broadband service is not available in those areas due to the high cost of building the necessary infrastructure, particularly critical fiberoptic cables, across sparsely populated areas of the country that do not have a high population density; and

Whereas, electric utilities are expanding their own fiber networks to support investments in advanced energy infrastructure to help provide cleaner, more reliable, and more resilient electricity to customers; and

Whereas, electric utilities that build fiber networks for grid operations can leverage these networks to help solve broadband service challenges efficiently and economically, thereby reducing costs for customers; and

Whereas, with the support of federal, state and local governments, electric utilities cost-effectively could increase the capacity of their fiber networks to accommodate broadband expansion by installing broadband fiber on existing transmission infrastructure, through existing rights of way; and

Whereas, investor-owned electric companies do not intend to provide telecom services to retail customers themselves; and

Whereas, electric utilities are uniquely qualified to help expand broadband access to millions of Americans given their existing infrastructure, history and experience electrifying the country for more than a century.

Therefore, be it Resolved the African American Mayors Association (AAMA) encourages utilities to deploy reliable cyber-secure broadband to support new technologies and smarter energy infrastructure for the modern electric grid; and

Be it Further Resolved AAMA encourages utilities and public utility commissions to use electric infrastructure to assist in the deployment of broadband services to homes and businesses.