

1 **[Opposing Federal Legislation That Unduly Restricts the Local Role in**
2 **Telecommunications and Video Policy]**

3 **Resolution urging the United States Congress to reject legislation that would unduly**
4 **restrict the role of local governments in providing broadband Internet access,**
5 **managing public rights of way, or awarding franchises to video providers and to**
6 **approve legislation that would preserve the option for local governments to participate**
7 **in the provision of communications services.**

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9 WHEREAS, the City supports universal, affordable broadband Internet access; and,

10 WHEREAS, City participation in the provision of broadband communications services
11 may be necessary to achieve universal, affordable broadband Internet access; and,

12 WHEREAS, the City supports competitive entry into the video market and has
13 demonstrated this support by granting two competitive video franchises since 2000; and,

14 WHEREAS, the City supports vibrant community media through public, educational
15 and government (PEG) access which uses capacity and equipment provided for through video
16 franchises and which relies in part on financial support from video carriers; and,

17 WHEREAS, City management of the public rights of way and City zoning requirements
18 for wireless facilities ensure that deployment of telecommunications and video equipment and
19 facilities respects public safety, pedestrian and vehicular traffic mobility, and sensitive
20 environmental, historical and cultural resources; and,

21 WHEREAS, no federal or state agency has the resources or detailed understanding of
22 the local rights of way or zoning issues to properly manage such rights of way or to respect
23 local zoning concerns; and,
24

1 WHEREAS, the City should be fairly compensated for use of the public rights of way;
2 and,

3 WHEREAS, the United States Congress is currently considering legislation that would
4 drastically limit the important local role in the formulation and implementation of
5 telecommunications and video policy; and,

6 WHEREAS, one bill, S. 1504 (Ensign-McCain), would: impose vague, cumbersome
7 and unnecessary restrictions on municipal participation in the provision of broadband Internet
8 access or any other communications services; replace local video franchising with a
9 nationwide franchise; replace locally controlled PEG access with a minimal national standard
10 with no provision for financial support; replace locally determined franchise fees with a uniform
11 national fee structure which would likely reduce revenue to the City; preempt local zoning of
12 wireless facilities; and severely restrict the City's successful right of way management
13 policies; and,

14 WHEREAS, one bill, H.R. 2726 (Sessions), would prohibit local governments from
15 providing broadband Internet access services or any other telecommunications, information or
16 cable service in any locality in which a private entity is offering a similar service; and,

17 WHEREAS, two bills, H.R. 3146 (Blackburn-Wynn) and S. 1349 (Smith-Rockefeller)
18 would preempt local franchising for telephone companies entering the video market and
19 replace these with weaker national requirements; and,

20 WHEREAS, in contrast to the previously enumerated bills, one bill, S. 1294
21 (Lautenberg-McCain), would preserve the ability of cities to participate in the provision of
22 broadband Internet access and other communications services by barring states from
23 restricting such activities by local governments; and,
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1 WHEREAS, the legislation currently being considered by Congress may be a prelude
2 to provisions that may appear in a comprehensive re-write of the Telecommunications Act of
3 1996 in the coming months; and, now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors finds that preserving the
5 option of municipal participation in the provision of broadband communications services is
6 necessary to promote universal, affordable broadband Internet access; and be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors affirms the
8 important role of local government in encouraging competition among telecommunications
9 and video providers, managing the public rights of way, implementing local zoning policies,
10 and ensuring vibrant community media; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That The San Francisco Board of Supervisors opposes
12 S.1504, H.R. 3146, S. 1349 and any other legislation that would prevent local government
13 from requiring video providers who use the public rights of way to obtain a local franchise, pay
14 reasonable franchise fees, or provide reasonable support for PEG access; and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors opposes S.1504
16 and H.R. 2726 and any other legislation that would prevent or unnecessarily restrict
17 municipalities from participating in the provision of broadband Internet access or other
18 communications services; and be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports S.
20 1294 and any other legislation that would preserve the ability of cities to participate in the
21 provision of broadband Internet access or other communications services; and be it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall cause a copy
23 of this Resolution to be sent to all members of the San Francisco Congressional Delegation.
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Supervisors Ammiano, Mirkarimi, Peskin, Maxwell, Daly, Dufty, Alioto-Pier
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS