



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE • BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Julian A. Gold MD, Mayor

April 5, 2018

Chairman Greg Walden
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 4814, the Community Broadband Act – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Walden,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I respectfully urge you to cosponsor Representative Anna Eshoo's bill, **H.R. 4814, the Community Broadband Act**. The legislation preserves the right of local governments to provide community-owned broadband services to their residents.

In our increasingly fast-paced, interdependent economy, uniform, affordable access to high-speed broadband is absolutely critical to business development, job growth and people's ability to reach their full potential, be it at home, school, work or just socially. My colleagues on the City Council and I see broadband internet as a matter of necessity and of particular importance to the entertainment, healthcare, hospitality and retail companies that do business in Beverly Hills.

Recognizing this imperative, the City established Beverly Hills Fiber in 2017, a city-owned and operated utility providing high-speed broadband fiber service to all our residents and businesses. Initially, 1 gigabit-per-second internet speed will be offered which is significantly faster – at least twice as fast – as service currently available through Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

Having invested in our own broadband infrastructure, we note with some degree of concern that at least twenty states have passed laws that either restrict or prohibit local communities

from building their own broadband networks. We think such state laws are fundamentally misplaced and threaten to impede municipal initiatives to broach the digital divide within our own communities. **H.R. 4814** will put a stop to such unwarranted encroachments and preserve the right of local government jurisdictions to remain engaged in providing a service that, in the 21st Century, is proving indispensable to the well-being of their residents, businesses and economy.

In closing, we urge you to lend your **support to the Community Broadband Act**. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julian A. Gold', written in a cursive style.

Julian A. Gold, MD
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: Congressman Ted Lieu
Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr.
Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn
Congressman Michael Doyle
Congressman Raul Ruiz
Congresswoman Mimi Walters
Congresswoman Doris Matsui
Congressman Jerry McNerney
Jaime Jones, David Turch & Associates