

1 **2023 NYSAC Legislative Conference**
2 **Standing Committee on Economic Development, Environment & Energy**
3 **Resolution #1**

4
5 **Resolution Calling for the Federal Communications Commission to Address**
6 **the Lack of Cellular Phone Coverage for Unserved and Underserved Areas**

7
8 **WHEREAS**, Americans are increasing their dependency on cellular phones for voice
9 communications; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, many areas of the United States, particularly in rural areas, are either
12 underserved or not served at all by cellular phone carriers; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, cellular phones and the requisite cellular coverage are, in many cases, the
15 first link of our emergency response chain; and

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17 **WHEREAS**, according to the National Emergency Number Association, an estimated
18 240 million calls are made to 9-1-1 in the U.S. each year, and, in many areas, 80 percent
19 or more of these calls are from wireless devices; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, without adequate service, New Yorkers who live in the unserved or
22 underserved areas, along with visitors and travelers, cannot reach emergency services
23 when they become necessary; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, the sizable percentage of individuals who rely solely on cellular phone
26 service, combined with the unserved and underserved areas of rural areas, presents a
27 substantial concern for public safety; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, providing cellular service to rural areas would alleviate public safety
30 concerns related to accessing emergency services through E-911 and strengthen
31 economic development opportunities; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) designates the Universal
34 Service Administrative Company (USAC) to administer the Universal Service Fund
35 (USF), which is dedicated to increasing access to telecommunications and advanced
36 telecommunications services; and

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38 **WHEREAS**, USAC established the High Cost Program to provide funding to
39 telecommunications carriers for the purpose of delivering service to rural areas where
40 the market alone cannot support the cost to provide telecommunications services; and

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42 **WHEREAS**, though the High Cost Program is the largest of the four USF programs,
43 many areas in rural America remain unserved or underserved.

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45 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
46 Counties (NYSAC) urges the FCC to provide adequate funding to telecommunications

1 carriers to ensure cellular build-out to the unserved and underserved areas of the United
2 States; and

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4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of
5 New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

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7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to FCC
8 Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel, the New York State Congressional Delegation,
9 Governor Kathy Hochul, and all others deemed necessary and proper.