

1 **2021 NYSAC Legislative Conference**
2 **Standing Committee on Economic Development, Environment & Energy**
3 **Resolution #2**

4 **Resolution Urging Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to Expand True Broadband**
5 **Coverage to All New Yorkers**

6
7 **WHEREAS**, the Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has said broadband coverage is a priority
8 for New York State; and

9 **WHEREAS**, maps developed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) are
10 inaccurate and misrepresent the accessibility of broadband service and are often
11 referenced by agencies and grantees; and

12 **WHEREAS**, based on newer and more accurate data gathered directly from schools,
13 municipalities, and other organization, there are large gaps in broadband service across
14 rural and upstate New York, contradicting FCC maps; and

15 **WHEREAS**, even in areas where broadband is purported to be available, the level of
16 service is not sufficient to constitute true broadband access; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the prices for access to broadband in areas where it might be available is
18 at such a high level or required to be part of other purchases, that it is inaccessible to
19 many New Yorkers; and

20 **WHEREAS**, our residents need access to reliable and affordable broadband service for
21 school, employment, telehealth, and social aspects of life; and

22 **WHEREAS**, as we have seen in the face of this pandemic, broadband serves a vital
23 need for breaking down the digital divide that creates groups of haves and have-nots
24 within our state; and

25 **WHEREAS**, broadband access provides a critical public infrastructure need for New
26 York residents, towns, municipalities, counties, emergency services, and more.

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
28 Counties (NYSAC) calls upon Governor Cuomo, our Federal and State legislative
29 delegations to work with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and local
30 leaders and officials to reevaluate FCC broadband availability maps to reflect the true
31 need; and

32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC asks the Governor and our Federal
33 and State legislative delegations to work to expand true broadband access to all areas of
34 New York State; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC asks the Governor and our Federal
2 and State legislative delegations to work to ensure this vital economic development
3 infrastructure need is available to all New Yorkers to prevent the further isolation of
4 those in need; and

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

7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
8 Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed
9 necessary and proper.