

1 **2022 NYSAC Fall Seminar**
2 **Standing Committee on Economic Development, Environment & Energy**
3 **Resolution #2**

4
5 **Resolution in Support of an Expedited Rollout of the ConnectALL Initiative**

6
7 **WHEREAS**, access to affordable and reliable high-speed broadband service is critical
8 for New Yorkers to receive medical care, work remotely, continue their education, and
9 connect with family and friends; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, closing the digital divide and ensuring that high-speed broadband service
12 is available to all New Yorkers is an important goal for the State of New York; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, while the State has made significant progress towards universal
15 deployment, there are still parts of the state that do not have high-speed broadband
16 available; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, broadband remains unaffordable for many New Yorkers who have service
19 available to them; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, the Governor and State Legislature enacted the Comprehensive
22 Broadband Connectivity Act of 2021 to direct the Public Service Commission (PSC) to
23 study, on an annual basis, the availability, reliability, and cost of high-speed broadband
24 service to ensure that all New Yorkers have the necessary affordable access going
25 forward; and

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27 **WHEREAS**, PSC released an interactive map and report on June 16, 2022, detailing
28 the scope of high-speed broadband infrastructure at an address-level in New York State;
29 and

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31 **WHEREAS**, by collecting address-level data, New York is now able to depict what
32 locations are served, underserved, and unserved in a more granular way, which will aid
33 in directing funding to where it is needed; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, as part of her 2022 State of the State address, Governor Hochul
36 announced the \$1 billion ConnectALL Initiative, which is the largest ever investment in
37 New York's connectivity infrastructure; and

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39 **WHEREAS**, the ConnectALL Initiative will support local efforts to expand affordable
40 and reliable broadband service by establishing and administering grant programs for
41 funding to plan, engineer, and construct accessible broadband infrastructure; and

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43 **WHEREAS**, the swift rollout of these grant programs is of paramount importance to
44 improving connectivity in the areas with the greatest need.

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of
2 Counties (NYSAC) calls on Empire State Development (ESD) to expedite the rollout of
3 ConnectALL and make grant applications available to local governments before the end
4 of 2022; and

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6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC encourages continued collaboration with
7 counties, the federal government, and between state agencies—including ESD, the
8 Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the Adirondack Park Association
9 (APA), and the Department of Transportation (DOT)—to close the digital divide; and

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

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14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
15 the Governor of the State of New York, the New York State Legislature, Empire State
16 Development Commissioner and CEO Hope Knight, and all others deemed necessary
17 and proper.