

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED  
BY LEGISLATOR BURKE**

**RE: Exploring the Establishment of an Erie County Fiber Optic Broadband System**

**WHEREAS**, Erie County is limited to two Internet Service Providers, Time Warner and Verizon; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Buffalo is limited to only one high speed Internet Service Provider, Time Warner; and

**WHEREAS**, many rural areas have very limited access to internet service which is needed in our modern society; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of internet access is unreasonably high due to a lack of competition; and

**WHEREAS**, people of low income, often the people who need internet access the most are not able to afford this necessary service; and

**WHEREAS**, Erie County does not have a provider that offers top level internet speed; and

**WHEREAS**, Chattanooga Tennessee as well as several other local governments throughout our nation have developed their own high speed broadband service that has served their citizens well, added much needed revenue to their books and worked as a mechanism for attracting companies to their region; and

**WHEREAS**, several companies such as Volkswagen America, sighted Chattanooga's municipal broadband service as a reason for investing in that city; and

**WHEREAS**, several new technology companies are committing to the Buffalo region and their chances of viability will be aided with the increased capacity of a top speed fiber optic broadband network; and

**WHEREAS**, municipal broadband service acts as a necessary counter to the negative effects of anti-net neutrality policies; and

**WHEREAS**, municipal broadband service could serve as an alternative revenue source for County government, reducing our dependence on sales tax revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, municipal broadband service acts as a necessary counter to the growing monopoly created by the potential Time Warner/Comcast merger.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that this Legislature recognizes the positive economic and social impact that a county wide broadband system could have on our region; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Economic Development Committee make serious consideration through discussions of this matter at its earliest possible convenience, and that the appropriate persons be invited to address the committee; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Clerk of the Legislature forward certified copies of this resolution to the Erie County Executive, the Honorable Mark Poloncarz; the New York State Governor, the Honorable Andrew Cuomo; and all New York State Assembly and Senate representatives whose district encompasses any portion of Erie County.

FISCAL IMPACT: None for resolution.