

**RESOLUTION NO. 2006-62**

**CONCERNING CITY BROADBAND NETWORKS**

**Whereas**, broadband telecommunications access has become as vital to cities and towns today as railheads, streets, highways and airports continue to be; and

**Whereas**, broadband access is a vital component of economic development, distance learning, tele-health and other services and positive outcomes; and

**Whereas**, New Mexico cities and towns can leverage improved broadband infrastructure and services to help New Mexico overcome its chronically low rating in per capita income; and

**Whereas**, continuing to rely solely on monopoly or near-monopoly incumbent providers for broadband infrastructure is not a valid option due to New Mexico's low priority status in national investment strategies and due also to a shortage of investment capital by private-sector; and

**Whereas**, a new model of private-public partnership for broadband deployment is being successfully deployed known as the UTOPIA model whereby cities play an active role in improving their own future via ultra-broadband infrastructure; and

**Whereas**, the UTOPIA model offers sound financial and business components, ultra-broadband services to all residents and businesses thus overcoming the "digital divide"; and

**Whereas**, the UTOPIA model of broadband deployment is open to all qualified service providers including incumbents, thus fostering a richer array of competitive offerings rather than reliance on monopoly or duopoly options most commonly available.

**Now, Therefore Be It Resolved** by the New Mexico Municipal League that:

- The New Mexico Legislature should be encouraged to allow cities and towns to continue the opportunity to explore such options;
- The New Mexico Legislature should explore funding and policy mechanisms to support towns and cities that might not otherwise be able to participate in such public-private broadband models; and
- Relevant committees of the New Mexico Legislature explore the UTOPIA model as a new approach to providing broadband services to the residents and businesses of New Mexico, in order to improve our state's economy and public services.

**Passed, Approved and Adopted** this 31<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2006 at the Town of Taos, New Mexico.

2006 Resolutions Committee