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May 18, 2026

**Bobbie Singh-Allen**  
Mayor

Hon. Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington D.C. 20515

Hon. Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington D.C. 20515

**Darren Suen**  
Vice Mayor  
District 1

Re: Opposition to H.R. 2289, the American Broadband Deployment Act of 2025

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

**Rod Brewer**  
Councilmember  
District 2

The City of Elk Grove to strongly opposes H.R. 2289, the American Broadband Deployment Act of 2025. This legislation would undermine public safety, force local taxpayers to subsidize private corporations and disrupt the very broadband deployment progress it aims to accelerate.

**Kevin D. Spease**  
Councilmember  
District 3

The predominant cause of broadband permitting delays is not local government – it is -the federal permitting process. This Congress has already recognized that problem – the House passed bipartisan legislation to expedite and improve permitting by federal agencies and on federal lands, which will do far more to accelerate BEAD-funded projects than imposing rigid mandates on local governments. H.R. 2289 does not address the actual bottleneck and instead micromanages the level of government that is actively working to get broadband built.

**Sergio Robles**  
Councilmember  
District 4

Local governments' broadband permitting and cable franchise functions facilitate safe, productive deployment in our public rights-of-way while protecting roads and residents from harm caused by poorly planned or executed construction. The local permitting process is an essential tool for avoiding unnecessary repairs and cost overruns – whether from staffing overtime or reduced infrastructure lifespan caused by multiple intrusions into the right-of-way. By imposing rigid federal “shot clocks” and restricting local authorities' ability to negotiate fair compensation for the use of public property, H.R. 2289 creates a framework that prioritizes communication companies' shareholder value at the expense of the safety and financial interests of the communities and the taxpayers they serve. Furthermore, by limiting cost-recovery mechanisms for application reviews, the bill effectively forces local taxpayers to subsidize private providers' administrative expenses – a cost that falls entirely on the public.

As our nation faces unprecedented advances in both artificial intelligence technology and federal investments in broadband infrastructure, local governments, including the City of Elk Grove, seek to be a constructive partner and rely on local zoning and permitting authority to make thoughtful decisions. These zoning and permitting authorities enable cities, towns, and counties to make smarter decisions that create economic benefits for their communities and respect citizens' concerns.

In the rare instances where a local government truly obstructs deployment in the case of telecommunications infrastructure, the Federal Communications Commission already possesses sufficient authority to intervene under Sections 253 and 332 of the Communications Act of 1996.

The Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program is on the verge of shovel-to-ground implementation. Across every state, local governments have partnered with state broadband offices to establish workable timelines, build review capacity and enable safe, coordinated deployments. Introducing sweeping new, onerous federal mandates now would undo those agreements and delay.

In summary, H.R. 2289 as written, would sacrifice local autonomy, impose unfunded mandates and disrupt deployment progress already underway. The City of Elk Grove urges Congress to prioritize local decision-making while balancing the need for high-speed telecommunication.

Sincerely,



Bobbie Singh-Allen  
MAYOR  
City of Elk Grove

CC: The Honorable Doris Matsui

