

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-12-027R

A RESOLUTION IN REGARD TO BROADBAND INTERNET TRANSMISSION
SERVICES LEGISLATION PENDING IN CONGRESS

WHEREAS, the U. S. House of Representatives Telecommunications Subcommittee has recommended legislation which is extremely damaging to the City of Urbana and all other cities in America; and

WHEREAS, this legislation started as a bipartisan effort to fast track telephone company entry into the cable TV business, with the goal of creating fair competition in the cable industry to the benefit of consumers; and

WHEREAS, the present draft of the Broadband Internet Transmission Services (BITS) Bill, as released on November 3, 2005, emasculates the original bipartisan goals and creates a bill which ignores municipalities, reduces competition, and negatively impacts local franchise authority and fees; and

WHEREAS, the present draft of the Bill would radically reduce municipal control over its right-of-way, including construction rights on public right-of-ways; and

WHEREAS, the present draft of the Bill endangers local needs programming through changes in funding of such requirements,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Urbana opposes the November 3, 2005, staff draft of the Broadband Internet Transmission Services (BITS) Legislation, and respectfully requests U.S. Congressman Timothy Johnson, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and U.S. Senator Barrack O'Bama to oppose this legislation if the concerns set forth above are not addressed.

Section 2. The City Council of the City of Urbana further requests that any legislation passed by the U.S. Congress respect local control over right-of-way decisions, preserve local franchise fees, continue local programming, and insure funding channel capacity and bandwidth for public advertisement and public access is maintained.

Section 3. The City Council of the City of Urbana supports competition in cable and telephone service, but opposes provisions in the BITS legislation which encourage the development of monopolies through buy-outs and acquisitions that inevitably increase prices and reduce competition.

Section 4. The City Council of the City of Urbana directs that a copy of this Resolution, as approved, be forwarded to the Honorable Timothy Johnson and all members of the Illinois Congressional delegation with the request that the Illinois delegation remain mindful of the impact of the BITS legislation on municipalities and our constituents.

PASSED by the City Council this _____ day of _____, 2005.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINS:

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of _____, 2005.

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor