

## **RESOLUTION NO. 1634**

### **A Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Okanogan County in support of rural broadband deployment that ensures fair, reasonable, just and sufficient rates for use of public utility district infrastructure.**

Whereas, public utility districts have a proven record of supporting broadband deployment in rural areas in a manner that provides value for ratepayers and promotes economic development; and

Whereas, Okanogan PUD, as a member of the Washington Public Utility Districts Association, advocated in support of a law passed in 2000 (RCW 54.16.330) authorizing PUDs to provide wholesale telecommunications services resulting in the installation of more than 6,000 miles of fiber optic cable statewide to connect communities; providing the infrastructure necessary to bring retail service to more than 33,000 end users; and

Whereas, public utility districts have actively worked to promote rural broadband deployment through mechanisms including legislative proposals to allow PUDs to provide retail telecom services to meet needs in underserved and unserved areas and participation in the Rural Broadband Workgroup; an industry workgroup seeking to identify barriers to broadband deployment in rural areas and identify solutions; and

Whereas, public utility districts provide cable companies and wireless providers the ability to attach the equipment necessary to deliver services to PUD-owned utility poles; and

Whereas, companies seeking to attach equipment to utility poles pay rates based on a 2008 law (RCW 54.04.045) developed with input from stakeholders including cable companies and PUDs, which established a formula for pole attachment rates determined to be “just, reasonable, non-discriminatory and sufficient” with the clearly stated legislative intent “to ensure that PUD customers do not subsidize licensees”; and

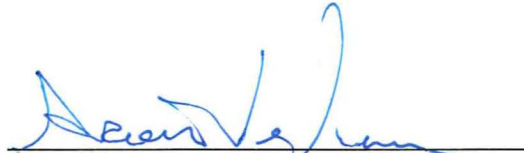
Whereas, the Washington State Legislature is considering legislation (Senate Bill 5711) to deploy advanced wireless service called “5G,” which would force PUDs to reduce pole attachment rates by as much as 70% for all pole attachments, not just 5G equipment, regardless of actual cost and with no assurance that 5G, a technology best suited for dense urban locations, or any other telecommunications technology will be deployed in rural areas; and

Whereas, the Okanogan PUD recognizes the value of advanced wireless technology and broadband services in rural areas deployed through a cooperative effort with service providers rather than prescriptive legislative mandates that undermine local decision making, require PUDs to subsidize private companies with ratepayer revenues, and do not ensure deployment of new or existing technology to rural areas;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Okanogan PUD opposes Senate Bill 5711 and encourages a cooperative effort between PUDs, cable companies, wireless providers and other stakeholders to identify impediments to deployment of 5G and other broadband services and develop solutions to ensure rural areas realize the benefits of new and existing technologies.

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017.



  
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Scott Vejraska, President

  
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Steve Houston, Vice President

ATTEST:

  
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Jerry Asmussen, Secretary

APPROVED as to form:

  
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Heidi E. Smith, General Counsel