

1 **COMMITTEE:** **COMMUNICATIONS, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND**
2 **INTERSTATE COMMERCE**

3 **POLICY:** **SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A**
4 **BALANCED NATIONAL SPECTRUM POLICY**
5 **THAT INCLUDES UNLICENSED ACCESS IN THE**
6 **5 GHZ BAND TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR**
7 **WIRELESS TECHNOLOGIES**

8 **TYPE:** **EXISTING RESOLUTION**

9 **WHEREAS**, we must have policies that preserve and encourage continued private
10 investment to deploy broadband technologies, support small and minority businesses
11 and entrepreneurs participation in the digital economy, and equip minority communities
12 with the skills and education to take advantage of these technologies; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, Wi-Fi spectrum in the 2.4 GHz band has become highly congested,
15 especially in densely populated urban areas making it difficult for Wi-Fi providers to
16 deliver the kinds and quality of service that consumers have come to expect and will
17 only accelerate as the number of wireless devices continues to grow; and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, the 5 GHz band has enormous potential to support continued growth in
20 unlicensed wireless services, including the next generation of Wi-Fi which will create a
21 platform for technological innovation, investment, and economic growth; and
22

23 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) acknowledges the critical
24 role that next generation Wi-Fi technologies can have on consumers and has agreed to
25 take a first step in the 5 GHz band by adding over 100 MHz of spectrum for Wi-Fi,
26 making it available for indoor and outdoor use; and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, the internet economy will reach \$4.2 trillion in the G-20 economies and
29 boast 3 billion users globally by 2016 and Wi-Fi is essential to unleashing the enormous
30 economic potential of the internet in communities where broadband adoption lags; and
31

32 **WHEREAS**, while according to a 2013 Pew survey more Americans are gaining access
33 to broadband in their homes, adoption rates for African Americans and Latinos still lag
34 those of whites by 10 to 20 percentage points respectively and when accounting for
35 income only 54 percent of those with a household income under \$30,000 had high
36 speed broadband or a computer at home increasing the importance of Wi-Fi for these
37 communities; and

38
39 **WHEREAS**, broadband access through Wi-Fi is critical to empowering minority and
40 minority women entrepreneurs to develop, grow and improve productivity of their
41 businesses as well as strengthening U.S. competitiveness nationally and worldwide;
42 and

43
44 **WHEREAS**, unlicensed Wi-Fi is a critical issue that, if left unresolved, will hinder the
45 broadband industry's ability to grow, innovate and compete and limiting access to this
46 important resource will jeopardize consumers ability to access Wi-Fi; and

47
48 **WHEREAS**, NCSL agrees that the proliferation of smartphones, tablets and other
49 mobile devices with Internet access has grown significantly, placing a greater demand
50 on both licensed and unlicensed spectrum, and adding additional capacity is essential
51 to support continued innovation and achieve the potential to transform many different
52 areas of the American economy by providing a platform for innovation and is likely to
53 have a substantial impact on jobs, growth and investment; and

54
55 **WHEREAS**, NCSL strongly believes that ensuring the long-term success of unlicensed
56 services in the 5 GHz band for Wi-Fi will enable the broadband industry to provide
57 reliable and affordable services to broadband customers, particularly given communities
58 of colors' high usage of mobile broadband technology as a primary means of connecting
59 to the Internet with the majority of these connection now being Wi-Fi connections; and

60

61 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that NCSL supports the Federal
62 Communications Commission's move to allocate additional 5 GHz band spectrum for
63 unlicensed use in order to meet increased demand for wireless technologies; and

64

65 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NCSL send a copy of this resolution to the President
66 of the United States, Members of Congress, the Federal Communications Commission,
67 State Legislatures and Governors.

68 *Expires August 2015*