

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

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

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10 **TYPE: RESOLUTION**
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12 WHEREAS, we must have policies that preserve and encourage continued
13 private investment to deploy broadband technologies, support small and
14 minority businesses and entrepreneurs participation in the digital economy,
15 and equip minority communities with the skills and education to take
16 advantage of these technologies; and
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18 WHEREAS, Wi-Fi spectrum in the 2.4 GHz band has become highly
19 congested, especially in densely populated urban areas making it difficult
20 for Wi-Fi providers to deliver the kinds and quality of service that
21 consumers have come to expect and will only accelerate as the number of
22 wireless devices continues to grow; and
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24 WHEREAS, the 5 GHz band has enormous potential to support continued
25 growth in unlicensed wireless services, including the next generation of Wi-
26 Fi which will create a platform for technological innovation, investment, and
27 economic growth; and
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29 WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
30 acknowledges the critical role that next generation Wi-Fi technologies can

31 have on consumers and has agreed to take a first step in the 5 GHz band
32 by adding over 100 MHz of spectrum for Wi-Fi, making it available for
33 indoor and outdoor use; and

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

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

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48 WHEREAS, broadband access through Wi-Fi is critical to empowering
49 minority and minority women entrepreneurs to develop, grow and improve
50 productivity of their businesses as well as strengthening U.S.
51 competitiveness nationally and worldwide; and

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53 WHEREAS, unlicensed Wi-Fi is a critical issue that, if left unresolved, will
54 hinder the broadband industry's ability to grow, innovate and compete and
55 limiting access to this important resource will jeopardize consumers ability
56 to access Wi-Fi; and

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58 WHEREAS, NCSL agrees that the proliferation of smartphones, tablets and
59 other mobile devices with Internet access has grown significantly, placing a
60 greater demand on both licensed and unlicensed spectrum, and adding
61 additional capacity is essential to support continued innovation and achieve
62 the potential to transform many different areas of the American economy by
63 providing a platform for innovation and is likely to have a substantial impact
64 on jobs, growth and investment; and

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

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73 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NCSL supports the Federal
74 Communications Commission's move to allocate additional spectrum for
75 unlicensed use in order to meet increased demand for wireless
76 technologies; and

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