



R-2017-03

**A RESOLUTION
URGING THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TO AMEND HOUSE BILL 310**

WHEREAS, the Town of Oak Ridge supports efforts to improve and increase telecommunication coverage, speed, and capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Oak Ridge currently allows telecommunication towers and equipment in all zoning districts within its municipal borders; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Oak Ridge strives to maintain its natural beauty, historic heritage, and rural charm; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Oak Ridge has adopted ordinances that balance the need for improved telecommunication coverage with the importance of maintaining the Town's natural beauty, historic heritage, and rural charm: and

WHEREAS, House Bill 310 as proposed would remove local control regarding telecommunication towers and equipment, allowing them to be located with limited or no local control regarding siting, aesthetics, and safety: and

WHEREAS, House Bill 310 as proposed would threaten the integrity of the Town's historic district, the rural charm of the community, its natural beauty, and, potentially, the safety of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 310 as proposed could also place an unfair financial burden on the town and its taxpaying citizens by requiring the Town to perform engineering and structural reports, subsidize permits and application fees, and assume the burden of removing abandoned equipment; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 310 chooses one industry already regulated by federal law and unfairly favors that industry over other private sector businesses, which amounts to extending unequal protection to that industry and establishing an anti-competitive advantage for that industry in North Carolina as a matter of law, all being repugnant to Article I, Sections 19 and 32 of the North Carolina Constitution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Oak Ridge calls on the members of the General Assembly to amend House Bill 310 to:

(1) preserve local control regarding the siting, aesthetic impact, and safety requirements of telecommunication towers and equipment,

(2) ensure the Town of Oak Ridge's historic heritage, its rural charm, its natural beauty, and

(3) prevent an unfair financial burden on the Town and its citizens.

The Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to each of the members of the General Assembly representing the people of the Town of Oak Ridge, to North Carolina Senate President Pro Tempore Philip E. Berger, Sr., and to North Carolina House Speaker Tim Moore.

This the ____ day of _____, 2017.

Spencer Sullivan
Mayor

Attest:

Sandra B. Smith
Town Clerk