

**TOWNSHIP OF FREDON**  
**RESOLUTION**  
**2020-61**  
**SUPPORTING HIGH SPEED INTERNET ACCESSIBILITY**

**WHEREAS**, rural areas of the State of New Jersey are serviced by service providers with respect to aerial line high-speed internet service; and

**WHEREAS**, having access to aerial line high-speed internet service is a necessary and vital part of living in today's society; and

**WHEREAS**, the recent pandemic of COVID-19 further illustrates just how vital access to aerial line high-speed internet has become to society, especially during times of crisis or emergencies and how not having access to aerial line high-speed internet has the potential to cripple a community, particularly a rural one, denying the community the capacity for remote student learning and remote working arrangements with a resident's employer; and

**FURTHERMORE**, that during a time of crisis not having access to aerial line high-speed internet has the potential to shut down all functions of government by denying essential employees and elected officials from the ability to work, communicate, distribute information, conduct meetings, and perform the other requirements of a functioning government through remote capabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Fredon believes that the service providers of aerial line high-speed internet in the State of New Jersey are more than capable of and financially sound enough to achieve a 100% rate of aerial line high-speed internet accessibility but choose not to pursue that goal unless forced to through regulation because the providers feel it is not profitable; and

**WHEREAS**, not having access to aerial line high-speed internet service is a plight on students, reducing their educational opportunities and ability to learn in a modern world; and

**WHEREAS**, not having access to aerial line high-speed internet service could potentially have life and death consequences for the elderly or those with various health complications; and

**WHEREAS**, not having access to aerial line high-speed internet service causes a great burden to businesses, places them at a disadvantage, and reduces chances for economic development in rural areas; and

**WHEREAS**, not having access to aerial line high-speed internet service can cause rural healthcare facilities to shut down because they cannot access required networks to function, thereby further creating negative impacts on New Jersey residents' health; and

**WHEREAS**, other rural municipalities experience this same burden due to their rural characteristics and environmental stewardship; and