

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 482

By Forgety

A RESOLUTION relative to broadband Internet access in rural areas.

WHEREAS, a recent study from the University of Texas-Austin states that rural areas without broadband Internet access will be economically crippled in an increasingly competitive world; and

WHEREAS, thus, broadband access is not a luxury; it is a necessity, as affordable and reliable broadband is a building block for healthy communities and crucial to expanding jobs and future development; and

WHEREAS, less than one-half of rural adults have access to broadband Internet at home, while two-thirds of metropolitan area adults do; and

WHEREAS, as the Internet becomes even more important in economics, education, and civic life, rural communities without broadband access will be at a severe disadvantage; and

WHEREAS, the role of government in expanding broadband access to underserved communities is still uncertain, as the issue is being fiercely debated in this body, the United States Congress, and the federal judiciary; and

WHEREAS, communication is a fundamental human right, and rural communities, as they fall further behind in modern technology in our ever changing society, are paying a higher price for their lack of broadband access; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we urge and encourage Internet service providers doing business in Tennessee to act with due speed and haste to expand broadband Internet access to our rural communities so that they may survive and thrive in a global economy.