

# House Resolution 6 - Introduced

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 6

BY KAUFMANN, GASKILL, WENTHE, MUHLBAUER, WITTNEBEN,  
HEDDENS, DRAKE, SODERBERG, BALTIMORE, and FRY

1 A Resolution requesting modifications to a national  
2 broadband plan for the benefit of rural residents of  
3 this state.

4 WHEREAS, residents of this state living in rural  
5 areas deserve and expect the same high-quality,  
6 affordable communications services that are available  
7 to their urban neighbors; and

8 WHEREAS, similar to businesses in urban areas, rural  
9 businesses, farmers, and ranchers compete in the global  
10 marketplace and depend on affordable access to robust  
11 broadband services to market and sell their products  
12 around the world; and

13 WHEREAS, children living in rural areas should  
14 have the same educational opportunities as their  
15 urban counterparts and high-speed internet access  
16 is absolutely necessary to allow these students  
17 opportunities for advanced learning through distance  
18 education; and

19 WHEREAS, residents living in rural areas face unique  
20 health care challenges because of the distances that  
21 must be traveled to seek basic and advanced medical  
22 care, and telemedicine delivered via broadband networks  
23 can improve the health of rural residents by reducing  
24 the time and travel needed for high-quality health  
25 care; and

26 WHEREAS, many rural areas encounter significant  
27 challenges in pursuing and sustaining economic

1 development plans that bring quality higher paying  
2 jobs to their communities, and insufficiently robust  
3 broadband speeds will further hamper the economic  
4 development needs of many rural communities; and

5 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture  
6 has rightfully placed significant importance on the  
7 need for broadband access in rural America to improve  
8 quality-of-life and economic development; and

9 WHEREAS, communications providers that serve this  
10 state's rural areas have worked diligently to ensure  
11 that their consumers have access to affordable and  
12 reliable broadband services and have utilized the  
13 United States Department of Agriculture's Rural  
14 Utilities Service loan and grant programs for economic  
15 development; and

16 WHEREAS, contrary to the progress rural  
17 communications providers have had in deploying  
18 broadband, the Federal Communications Commission  
19 is embarking on a National Broadband Plan that will  
20 negatively impact the ability of residents living in  
21 rural areas in this state to realize the true benefits  
22 of access to robust broadband speeds by limiting  
23 support to four megabits per second in rural, high-cost  
24 areas of the country, while calling for one hundred  
25 million urban homes to have access to broadband speeds  
26 at one hundred megabits per second by 2020; and

27 WHEREAS, the National Broadband Plan runs counter  
28 to the federal universal service policy which ensures  
29 access to communications services at comparable rates  
30 regardless of the consumer's location; NOW THEREFORE,

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1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That  
2 the House of Representatives challenges the Federal  
3 Communications Commission to make substantive changes  
4 to the National Broadband Plan so that the plan does  
5 not limit the future economic livelihood and social  
6 wellbeing of rural consumers; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of  
8 Representatives encourages the members of Iowa's  
9 congressional delegation to work with the Federal  
10 Communications Commission to ensure that commissioners  
11 understand the importance of robust broadband  
12 deployment to rural Iowa and how the current draft of  
13 the National Broadband Plan needs to be dramatically  
14 altered to ensure quality broadband service  
15 availability throughout this state.