

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.