

1 SJR8
2 164236-1
3 By Senator Orr
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 05-MAR-15

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8 URGING THE MEMBERS OF THE ALABAMA CONGRESSIONAL
9 DELEGATION TO SUPPORT FEDERAL PROGRAMS ENHANCING THE
10 DEVELOPMENT OF BROADBAND INTERNET IN RURAL AREAS OF THIS
11 STATE.

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13 WHEREAS, according to the Federal Communications
14 Commission Chairman, 53 percent of rural Americans have no
15 access to high-speed Internet, which is defined as the
16 capability to download content at 25 megabits per second; and

17 WHEREAS, thousands of Alabamians remain without
18 access to broadband Internet services; and

19 WHEREAS, according to some sources, including the
20 Federal Communications Commission, there are almost a million
21 Alabama residents who have access to only one wired Internet
22 provider, leaving these residents with no opportunity to
23 utilize an alternate provider; and

24 WHEREAS, more than 250,000 Alabama residents depend
25 on fixed wireless or mobile broadband with low data caps for
26 their home Internet connection; and

1 WHEREAS, in an effort to enhance affordable access
2 to broadband Internet, the federal government has implemented
3 certain initiatives to build out necessary infrastructure; and

4 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture
5 has recently announced that it will offer between 40 and 50
6 million dollars to rural carriers that invest in introducing
7 broadband Internet in rural areas; and

8 WHEREAS, it is imperative that Alabama capitalize
9 upon federal dollars to broaden Internet access in this state
10 to further allow Alabamians in rural areas to actively
11 participate in economic and civic life far beyond their
12 geographic region; now therefore,

13 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
14 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That by copy of this resolution to
15 each member of the Alabama Congressional Delegation, we hereby
16 urge delegation members to support Alabama's participation in
17 federal programs that enhance Internet access in rural areas
18 and to actively advance Alabama as a pilot state in federal
19 broadband Internet expansion programs.