

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 12

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

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2 TO THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.
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6 We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of
7 the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-first
8 Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

9 WHEREAS, Idaho's economy depends on the success of our rural communi-
10 ties, and Idaho's diverse terrain and unique culture is why our rural commu-
11 nities have such incredible character; and

12 WHEREAS, difficult terrain should not impede Idaho citizens from af-
13 fordable access to broadband technology, because the survival of rural com-
14 munities depends on continued access to advanced broadband technology; and

15 WHEREAS, broadband is a critical infrastructure like sewer, water, and
16 electricity; and

17 WHEREAS, broadband connections from White Bird north to Grangeville do
18 not exist and must be routed out of state; and

19 WHEREAS, there are not as many access hubs connecting rural communities
20 to existing fiber optic cables throughout rural Idaho, thereby limiting ac-
21 cess to effective broadband internet; and

22 WHEREAS, topographical challenges make internet infrastructure im-
23 provements very difficult and expensive; and

24 WHEREAS, rural municipalities and community facilities including hos-
25 pitals and libraries are unable to maximize the use of internet technologies
26 to their fullest potential; and

27 WHEREAS, the Idaho Transportation Department right-of-way is a barrier
28 to some telecom providers, and permitting could be streamlined; and

29 WHEREAS, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission is encouraged to take
30 the lead role in bringing together state agencies, local governments and
31 tribal governments to facilitate a discussion about shared infrastructure
32 and network openness.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular
34 Session of the Sixty-first Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives
35 and the Senate concurring therein, that we urge the Federal Communications
36 Commission and the Idaho congressional delegation to support the continued
37 use and economic vitality of the Universal Service Fund, the Connect America
38 Fund and other resources to accelerate broadband telecommunications devel-
39 opment in Idaho and other rural and frontier states.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-
41 tives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this
42 Memorial to the Federal Communications Commission, to the President of the
43 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and the

1 congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of
2 the United States.