

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0010

Rural long distance phone service.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Eklund, Bonner, Campbell  
and Semlek and Senator(s) Johnson

A Bill

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION commending to Congress the Federal  
2 Communications Commission's efforts to solve rural call  
3 completion problems.

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5 WHEREAS, local phone service providers in rural areas have  
6 reported an alarming increase in complaints from customers  
7 that long distance calls and faxes are not reaching them;  
8 and

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10 WHEREAS, complaints of poor call quality and dropped calls  
11 in rural areas are a persistent problem affecting eighty  
12 percent (80%) of rural carriers; and

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1 WHEREAS, the problems are associated with the decades old  
2 system of "access" charges that help pay for the cost of  
3 rural networks; and

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5 WHEREAS, to minimize these charges some long distance  
6 carriers use third party "least cost routers" which attempt  
7 to connect calls to their destinations at the lowest cost  
8 possible; and

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10 WHEREAS, the federal communications commission issued new  
11 rules, effective December 29, 2011 which attempt to provide  
12 both short and long-term solutions to rural call completion  
13 problems through prohibiting actions blocking, degrading or  
14 choking off calls for any reason, including to avoid high  
15 access charges; and

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17 WHEREAS, the federal communications commission issued an  
18 order on February 6, 2012, clearly finding that certain  
19 practices by long distance carriers causing rural call  
20 completion problems constitute unjust and unreasonable  
21 practices in violation of section 201 of the Communications  
22 Act of 1934.

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1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE  
2 LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:

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4 **Section 1.** That the legislature of the state of  
5 Wyoming commends the federal communications commission for  
6 its efforts to improve rural call completion and service  
7 quality problems.

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9 **Section 2.** That the legislature of the state of  
10 Wyoming encourages the federal communications commission to  
11 continue its efforts to improve rural telephone service and  
12 to monitor the effects of its efforts closely.

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14 **Section 3.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming  
15 transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the  
16 United States, to the President of the Senate and the  
17 Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United  
18 States Congress and to the Wyoming Congressional  
19 Delegation.

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(END)