

Cindy Lash

**House Resolution No. 6027**

By Committee on Energy and Utilities

5-2

1 A RESOLUTION urging modifications to the National Broadband Plan for  
2 the benefit of rural residents of Kansas.  
3 WHEREAS, Residents of this state living in rural areas deserve and  
4 expect the same high-quality, affordable communications services that are  
5 available to their urban neighbors; and  
6 WHEREAS, Similar to businesses in urban areas, rural businesses,  
7 farmers and ranchers compete in the global marketplace and depend on  
8 affordable access to robust broadband services to market and sell their  
9 products around the world; and  
10 WHEREAS, Children living in rural areas should have the same  
11 educational opportunities as their urban counterparts, and high-speed  
12 internet access is absolutely necessary to allow these students  
13 opportunities for advanced learning through distance education; and  
14 WHEREAS, Residents living in rural areas face unique health care  
15 challenges because of the distances that must be traveled to seek basic and  
16 advanced medical care, and telemedicine delivered via broadband  
17 networks can improve the health of rural residents by reducing the time  
18 and travel needed for high-quality health care; and  
19 WHEREAS, Many rural areas encounter significant challenges in  
20 pursuing and sustaining economic development plans that bring quality,  
21 higher-paying jobs to their communities, and insufficiently robust  
22 broadband speeds will further hamper the economic development needs of  
23 many rural communities; and  
24 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture has  
25 rightfully placed significant importance on the need for broadband access  
26 in rural America to improve quality of life and economic development; and  
27 WHEREAS, Communications providers that serve this state's rural  
28 areas have worked diligently to ensure that their consumers have access to  
29 affordable and reliable broadband services and have utilized the United  
30 States Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service loan and grant  
31 programs for economic development; and  
32 WHEREAS, Contrary to the progress rural communications providers  
33 have had in deploying broadband, the Federal Communications  
34 Commission is embarking on a National Broadband Plan that will  
35 negatively impact the ability of residents living in rural areas of this state  
36 to realize the true benefits of access to robust broadband speeds by

1 limiting support to four megabits per second in rural, high-cost areas of the  
2 country, while calling for one hundred million urban homes to have access  
3 to broadband speeds at 100 megabits per second by 2020; and

4 WHEREAS, The National Broadband Plan runs counter to the federal  
5 universal service policy which ensures access to communications services  
6 at comparable rates regardless of the consumer's location: Now, therefore,

7 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:*  
8 That we challenge the Federal Communications Commission to make  
9 substantive change to the National Broadband Plan so that the plan  
10 develops a universal service support mechanism that ensures  
11 accountability, promotes stability, provides efficient and effective  
12 incentives for broadband network deployment and operation and  
13 encourages broadband adoption by keeping broadband service affordable.  
14 The plan should also ensure high-quality service by linking funding to  
15 satisfying reasonable, but meaningful, carrier of last resort obligations.  
16 Consistent with the universal service principles in federal law, the plan  
17 should ensure that rural and urban consumers pay reasonably comparable  
18 rates for reasonably comparable services by providing adequate support in  
19 high-cost areas; and

20 *Be it further resolved:* That we urge the members of the Kansas  
21 Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of the United States Department  
22 of Agriculture and the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service to work  
23 with the Federal Communications Commission to ensure that  
24 commissioners understand the importance of robust broadband  
25 deployment to rural Americans and how the current draft of the National  
26 Broadband Plan needs to be dramatically altered to ensure quality  
27 broadband service availability throughout the country; and

28 *Be it further resolved:* That the Chief Clerk of the House of  
29 Representatives be directed to provide an enrolled copy of this resolution  
30 to the commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission, the  
31 members of the Kansas Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of the  
32 United States Department of Agriculture, the Administrator of the Rural  
33 Utilities Service, the Chief Technology Officer in the White House Office  
34 of the Science and Technology Policy and the Governor of Kansas.

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SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1832

A RESOLUTION urging modifications to the National Broadband Plan for the benefit of rural residents of Kansas.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Many rural areas encounter significant challenges in pursuing and sustaining economic development plans that bring quality, higher-paying jobs to their communities, and insufficiently robust broadband speeds will further hamper the economic development needs of many rural communities; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Contrary to the progress rural communications providers have had in deploying broadband, the Federal Communications Commission is embarking on a National Broadband Plan that will negatively impact the ability of residents living in rural areas of this state to realize the true benefits of access to robust broadband speeds by limiting support to four megabits per second in rural, high-cost areas of the country, while calling for one hundred million urban homes to have access to broadband speeds at 100 megabits per second by 2020; and

WHEREAS, The National Broadband Plan runs counter to the federal universal service policy which ensures access to communications services at comparable rates regardless of the consumer's location: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we challenge the Federal Communications Commission to make substantive change to the National Broadband Plan so that the plan develops a universal service support mechanism that ensures accountability, promotes stability, provides efficient and effective incentives for broadband network deployment and operation and encourages broadband adoption by keeping broadband service affordable. The plan should also ensure high-quality service by linking funding to satisfying reasonable, but meaningful, carrier of last resort obligations. Consistent with the universal service principles in federal law, the plan should ensure that rural and urban consumers pay reasonably comparable rates for reasonably comparable services by providing adequate support in high-cost areas; and

*Be it further resolved:* That we urge the members of the Kansas Congressional Delegation to work with the Federal Communications Commission to ensure that commissioners understand the importance of robust broadband deployment to rural Kansas and how the current draft of the National Broadband Plan needs to be dramatically altered to ensure quality broadband service availability throughout this state; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to the commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission, the members of the Kansas Congressional Delegation and the Governor.

Senate Resolution No.1832 was sponsored by Senators Taddiken, Abrams, Apple, Bruce, Brungardt, Emler, Francisco, Haley, Hensley, Holland, Kelly, Kelsey, King, Kultala, Longbine, Love, Marshall, Masterson, McGinn, Merrick, Morris, Olson, Ostmeyer, Petersen, Pilcher-Cook, A. Schmidt, V. Schmidt, Schodorf, Steineger, Teichman and Umbarger.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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President of the Senate.

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Secretary of the Senate.