

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 265 Session of  
2011

INTRODUCED BY HANNA, BAKER, BENNINGHOFF, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER,  
CONKLIN, D. COSTA, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FLECK, GABLER, GEORGE,  
GINGRICH, GOODMAN, HENNESSEY, HORNAMAN, HUTCHINSON, JOSEPHS,  
KIRKLAND, KULA, LONGIETTI, MAJOR, MANN, MIRABITO, MOUL AND  
STURLA, MAY 12, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS, MAY 12, 2011

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Commonwealth to upgrade its broadband communications  
2 network for use by the private and public sectors in the  
3 Northern Tier of this Commonwealth.

4 WHEREAS, Many of the communities in the region of this  
5 Commonwealth referred to as the Northern Tier lack competitive  
6 access to broadband communications and wireless phone services  
7 in the region, which impedes the speed of response in matters of  
8 public safety, economic development and research, analysis and  
9 education; and

10 WHEREAS, The Marcellus Shale natural gas industry is actively  
11 developing extensive operations in the Northern Tier and lacks  
12 access to adequate broadband communications and wireless phone  
13 services in the region, impacting the speed and effectiveness of  
14 industry development; and

15 WHEREAS, The wireless communications industry did not have  
16 great financial incentive in the past to develop infrastructure  
17 to improve coverage in the Northern Tier because of limited

1 population; however, utilizing Commonwealth-owned infrastructure  
2 and wireless communications, industry can eliminate much of its  
3 upfront infrastructure development costs and more effectively  
4 cover the region with its services to meet the expanding  
5 communications needs; and

6 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth owns and maintains a vast number of  
7 communications towers and related infrastructure across the  
8 Northern Tier that must be upgraded to adequately support  
9 multiple Commonwealth needs for enhanced broadband  
10 communications in the region; and

11 WHEREAS, Financial, engineering and construction support from  
12 wireless communications and natural gas industries could be  
13 provided to ensure that the Commonwealth's communications tower  
14 sites, related facilities and resulting broadband communications  
15 network meet or exceed their industries' highest quality control  
16 and performance standards to maximize their effective, long-term  
17 use; and

18 WHEREAS, The resulting broadband communications network would  
19 significantly benefit all pertinent Commonwealth agencies,  
20 authorities, boards, commissions, councils, departments, offices  
21 and communities in the region and the development of regional  
22 business and industry, including, but not limited to, the  
23 Marcellus Shale natural gas industry and wireless communications  
24 industry; and

25 WHEREAS, The community, business and industry safety,  
26 economic development, research analysis and educational  
27 opportunities are of paramount importance; and

28 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth should encourage, invite and guide  
29 wireless communications and natural gas industry collaboration  
30 to facilitate the most mutually advantageous outcome to all

1 parties in the Northern Tier; therefore be it

2       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the  
3 Commonwealth to upgrade its broadband communications network for  
4 use by the private and public sectors in the Northern Tier of  
5 this Commonwealth.