

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 111 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY HANNA, PICKETT, HARHAI, LONGIETTI, CALTAGIRONE,
D. COSTA, BAKER, CONKLIN, JAMES, O'BRIEN, CAUSER, EVERETT,
V. BROWN, KORTZ, HARKINS, MOUL, FLECK, HENNESSEY, MAJOR,
GABLER, BENNINGHOFF, MAHONEY, MURT, PEIFER, BIZZARRO, STURLA
AND FABRIZIO, MARCH 11, 2013

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, NOVEMBER 13, 2013

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~~ SOME 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~~ SOME AREAS, impacting the speed and <--
14 effectiveness of industry development; and

15 WHEREAS, The wireless communications industry did not have
16 great financial incentive in the past to develop infrastructure

1 to improve coverage in the Northern Tier because of limited
2 population; ~~however, utilizing~~ AND <--

3 WHEREAS, THE PROVISIONS OF 66 PA.C.S. § 3014 (RELATING TO
4 NETWORK MODERNIZATION PLANS) REQUIRE THE UNIVERSAL DEPLOYMENT OF
5 BROADBAND TO THE NORTHERN TIER; AND

6 WHEREAS, TWENTY-NINE RURAL LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS COMPLETED
7 THEIR 100% BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT BY DECEMBER 31, 2008; AND

8 WHEREAS, TWO RURAL LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS ARE SCHEDULED TO
9 COMPLETE 100% BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT BY DECEMBER 31, 2013; AND

10 WHEREAS, THE REMAINING LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIER IS SCHEDULED TO
11 COMPLETE ITS 100% BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT NO LATER THAN DECEMBER
12 31, 2015; AND

13 WHEREAS, 4G LTE WIRELESS BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY IS BEING
14 DEPLOYED IN THE NORTHERN TIER TO HELP COMPLETE THAT REQUIREMENT;
15 AND

16 WHEREAS, UTILIZING Commonwealth-owned infrastructure and
17 wireless communications, ~~industry can~~ SOME CARRIERS MAY BE ABLE <--
18 TO eliminate much of ~~its~~ THEIR upfront infrastructure <--
19 development costs and more effectively cover the region with ~~its~~ <--
20 THEIR services to meet the expanding communications needs; and <--

21 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth owns and maintains a vast number of
22 communications towers and related infrastructure across the
23 Northern Tier that must be upgraded to adequately support
24 multiple Commonwealth needs for enhanced broadband
25 communications in the region; and

26 WHEREAS, Financial, engineering and construction support from
27 wireless communications and natural gas industries could be
28 provided to ensure that the Commonwealth's communications tower
29 sites, related facilities and resulting broadband communications
30 network meet or exceed their industries' highest quality control

1 and performance standards to maximize their effective, long-term
2 use; and

3 WHEREAS, The resulting broadband communications network would
4 significantly benefit all pertinent Commonwealth agencies,
5 authorities, boards, commissions, councils, departments, offices
6 and communities in the region and the development of regional
7 business and industry, including, but not limited to, the
8 Marcellus Shale natural gas industry and wireless communications
9 industry; and

10 WHEREAS, The community, business and industry safety,
11 economic development, research analysis and educational
12 opportunities are of paramount importance; and

13 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth should encourage, invite and guide
14 wireless communications and natural gas industry collaboration
15 to facilitate the most mutually advantageous outcome to all
16 parties in the Northern Tier; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
18 Commonwealth to upgrade its broadband communications network for
19 use by the private and public sectors in the Northern Tier of
20 this Commonwealth.