

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 119 Session of  
2011

INTRODUCED BY WOZNIAK, YAW, FONTANA, WASHINGTON, ALLOWAY AND  
TARTAGLIONE, MAY 16, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY, MAY 16, 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  
18 population; however, utilizing Commonwealth-owned infrastructure

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

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

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

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

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

27 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth should encourage, invite and guide  
28 wireless communications and natural gas industry collaboration  
29 to facilitate the most mutually advantageous outcome to all  
30 parties in the Northern Tier; therefore be it

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