

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

BY REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOHNSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Attorney General and all appropriate federal agencies, including but not limited to the Federal Communications Commission, to investigate whether Altice USA or Suddenlink Communications has violated state or federal law in its dealings with the citizens of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, internet connectivity has become a more essential service in the light of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of students in Louisiana are dependent on internet service to go to school, thousands of Louisianans are reliant on internet services for telemedicine, and small businesses depend on online sales more than ever; and

WHEREAS, the restoration of communication service after a natural disaster is paramount to relief efforts and Louisianans returning to their normal lives; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana legislature has received more than one hundred complaints about Suddenlink engaging in deceptive trade practices, charging fees for services that are not delivered, providing poor customer service, failing to communicate about key events including hurricanes, and engaging in various other problematic and potentially illegal behaviors; and

WHEREAS, a joint commerce committee hearing examined how Suddenlink has been failing to meet its obligations to reconnect customers to essential communication equipment, has been charging customers for services it has not delivered, and has lagged behind its peers in assisting in recovery.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Attorney General to use the powers granted to him under the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law to investigate Altice USA and Suddenlink Communications and whether they have been engaging in actions that are prohibited under Louisiana law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request any appropriate federal agencies, such as the Federal Communications Commission, to investigate whether Altice USA and Suddenlink Communications have engaged in a violation of federal law in their dealings with the people of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Attorney General, the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE