

1 Hammond; and

2 WHEREAS, interrupting the flow of funding from the federal Community
3 Development Block Grant program would be catastrophic to the poorest neighborhoods of
4 Alexandria and Hammond, impacting the ability to reduce blight, decrease lead hazards,
5 renovate dilapidated residences, and develop safer, affordable housing; and

6 WHEREAS, losing funding from federal rural development programs and eligibility
7 for certain grants to regional planning organizations to improve infrastructure would be
8 harmful to central and southeastern Louisiana, especially during the pandemic recovery
9 period; and

10 WHEREAS, losing eligibility for federal loans for broadband expansion in rural
11 areas would be particularly harmful for Alexandria, Hammond, and surrounding areas and
12 would impede economic growth; and

13 WHEREAS, a reduction of reimbursement from the federal Hospital Inpatient
14 Prospective Payment System would severely financially impact acute care hospitals and their
15 ability to serve the people of Alexandria and Hammond as well as people in multi-parish
16 areas surrounding these cities; and

17 WHEREAS, raising the minimum MSA population would do little to return the
18 population balance between metropolitan and micropolitan areas back to the even split that
19 existed when the MSA's were first conceived more than seventy years ago, but would create
20 unwarranted changes on the distribution of federal assistance; and

21 WHEREAS, maintaining consistency in the MSA program is also helpful for local
22 governments and businesses that depend on long-term trend data to better understand the
23 economies in these areas, providing the tools to easily compare changes in labor markets and
24 an area's economic conditions; and

25 WHEREAS, long term data sets are also helpful for local governments as they
26 implement policies to raise unemployment rates and administer aid during the economic
27 recovery; and

28 WHEREAS, it is particularly important to nurture pro-growth policies for businesses,
29 families, and communities as we collectively work on the economic recovery.

30 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby

