

2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 40

BY REPRESENTATIVE DESHOTEL

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the House Committee on Commerce to meet and study the current effects that railroads have on broadband deployment and to report its findings to the legislature.

WHEREAS, in the modern economy, access to broadband service is a lifeline to quality of life and economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, more advanced communication capabilities and access to broadband service are needed in this state; and

WHEREAS, citizens of this state rely on critical infrastructure, including railroads, to access broadband and connectivity to the regional, national, and global economy; and

WHEREAS, this critical broadband infrastructure enhances the local, regional, and state economy, the quality of life, and the strength of communities in this state; and

WHEREAS, the continued lack of advanced communication capabilities and access to broadband service in certain remote and rural areas of this state presents challenges to individuals residing and businesses operating in this state, which can include deficiency in poor infrastructure, limited transit options, scarcity of employment possibilities, lack of other technological advances, and overall lack of economic growth; and

WHEREAS, a thorough and systematic study of the existing issues caused by the lack of broadband access due to the effects that railroads have on broadband deployment is necessary and appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of access and cost issues that railroads cause is necessary to expand broadband service into unserved areas; and

WHEREAS, a study of the current effects that railroads have on broadband deployment is a critical component to solving the broadband accessibility issue.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the House Committee on Commerce to meet and study the current effects that railroads have on broadband deployment and to report its findings to the legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House Committee on Commerce shall solicit input, recommendations, and advice from, but not limited to, the following or their representatives:

- (1) AT&T.
- (2) CenturyLink.
- (3) Charter.
- (4) Cleco.
- (5) Comcast.
- (6) Cox Communications.
- (5) CSX Transportation.
- (7) EATEL.
- (8) Entergy.
- (9) Suddenlink.
- (10) The Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives.
- (11) The BNSF Railway.
- (12) The Canadian National Railway.
- (13) The Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association.
- (14) Hunt Telecommunications.
- (15) The Kansas City Southern Railway.
- (16) The Louisiana Cable Association.
- (17) The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.
- (18) The Louisiana Internet and Television Association.
- (19) The Louisiana Southern Railroad.
- (20) The Louisiana Telecommunications Association.
- (21) The Norfolk Southern Railway.

(22) The Union Pacific Railroad Company.

(23) Unity Communications.

(24) Verizon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House Committee on Commerce shall report its findings to the legislature prior to the convening of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to AT&T, CenturyLink, Charter, Cleco, Comcast, Cox Communications, CSX Transportation, EATEL, Entergy, Suddenlink, the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, the BNSF Railway, the Canadian National Railway, the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association, Hunt Telecommunications, the Kansas City Southern Railway, the Louisiana Cable Association, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, the Louisiana Internet and Television Association, the Louisiana Southern Railroad, the Louisiana Telecommunications Association, the Norfolk Southern Railway, the Union Pacific Railroad Company, Unity Communications, and Verizon.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES