

1 SJR116  
2 177776-2  
3 By Senators Dial and Whatley  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 03-MAY-16

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8 SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF BROADBAND.

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10 WHEREAS, many Americans, including thousands of  
11 Alabamians, still lack access to broadband Internet services;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of broadband for  
14 growth, job opportunities, and sustained economic development,  
15 Alabama law stipulates that municipal utilities may provide  
16 unbundled, nondiscriminatory Internet service under certain  
17 conditions, including no taxes or state appropriations may  
18 fund municipal broadband and the municipality may not incur  
19 debt related to the provision of broadband; and

20 WHEREAS, although Alabama recognizes the importance  
21 of broadband expansion, Alabama remains one of 21 states  
22 nationwide that have laws restricting municipal broadband  
23 infrastructure that have been questioned by the federal  
24 government; and

25 WHEREAS, certain municipalities and counties have  
26 supported fiber initiatives aiming to expand service to

1 additional areas and support the FCC position regarding state  
2 laws limiting service areas; and

3 WHEREAS, current state law regulating direct service  
4 provision by local government does not favor broadband  
5 expansion; and

6 WHEREAS, expansion of broadband Internet access in  
7 Alabama, particularly by municipal utility services, is  
8 imperative for Alabamians to actively participate in economic  
9 and civic life beyond their geographic region; now therefore

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
11 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby support the  
12 expansion of broadband Internet particularly by municipalities  
13 into other service areas.