

House Resolution 1698

By: Representatives Meadows of the 5th, Powell of the 171st, and England of the 116th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the House Rural Development Council to investigate ways to streamline and make
2 equitable the use of public rights of way so as to expedite the deployment of emerging
3 communications technologies throughout the entire state while retaining local control of and
4 fair compensation for such rights of way; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, emerging communications technologies, such as broadband services, are
6 essential to everyday life; and

7 WHEREAS, economic development, education, health care, public safety, and other
8 important facets of society are dependent upon the availability of reliable emerging
9 communications technologies; and

10 WHEREAS, there is a need for the state to address this crucial infrastructure requirement;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, it is beneficial to consider all options that may facilitate the continued
13 deployment and expansion of emerging communications technologies in this state; and

14 WHEREAS, it may be prudent to review how best to streamline and manage the access and
15 control of public rights of way to ensure such deployment and expansion of emerging
16 communications technologies. Furthermore, such review would also be best directed if it
17 included a study of the most equitable way of compensating the public through payment to
18 local governments and the Georgia Department of Transportation for access to and use of the
19 public rights of way; and

20 WHEREAS, it may also be judicious to examine how best to create a fair playing field
21 among current and future communications services providers through the examination of
22 new pole rates, rentals, and ownership of such poles.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
24 the members of this body urge that the House Rural Development Council investigate ways
25 to streamline and make equitable the use of public rights of way so as to expedite the
26 deployment of emerging communications technologies throughout the entire state.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body encourage the House Rural
28 Development Council to solicit input from the Georgia Department of Transportation, local
29 governments, communications services providers, and others in this state on how best to
30 manage the public rights of way.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
32 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
33 House Rural Development Council, the Georgia Department of Transportation, local
34 governments in this state, and the public.