

No. R-32. House concurrent resolution honoring the organizations and individuals working to resolve Vermont's rural broadband access crisis.

(H.C.R.21)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Whereas, the State of Vermont is committed to solving the rural broadband access crisis, and to achieve this goal, the General Assembly has enacted 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 41, recognizing multi-municipality Communications Union Districts (CUDs,) for broadband implementation and management;

2019 Acts and Resolves No. 79, providing new State funding, a Department of Public Service (DPS) position, and the establishment of the Broadband Innovation Grant Program at DPS; and 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 71, creating the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) to oversee and manage the newly established Vermont Community Broadband Fund, and

Whereas, the CUDs have organized the Vermont Communications Union Districts Association (VCUDA) to assist the CUDS and represent their interests before the General Assembly and other organizations, and

Whereas, since 2007, Vermont's first CUD, ECFiber, under its operator, ValleyNet, has pioneered the development, with public and private funding, including the bonding of universal broadband access in its jurisdiction, and serving over 7,500 customers via a nearly 1,700-mile network encompassing 31 towns, and

Whereas, in 2023, the 10 CUDs—Chittenden County CUD, CVFiber, DVFiber, ECFiber, Lamoille FiberNet, Maple Broadband, Northwest FiberworX, NEK Broadband, Otter Creek CUD, and Southern Vermont CUD—are currently providing or developing broadband service for customers in over 200 municipalities, facilitating access to educational, economic development, healthcare, and governmental services, as well as family entertainment, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the central importance of CUDs to the establishment of statewide universal high-speed broadband access and congratulates the CUDs, the VCUDA, and the VCBB in this essential endeavor, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to each of the CUDs, the VCUDA, and the VCBB.