A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs to meet and function as a joint committee to 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 infrastructure, including railroads, 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 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 investment in and development of railroads to eliminate the issues
that railroads cause to limit broadband service is necessary to better serve individuals and
businesses in this state; and

WHEREAS, a study of the current effects that railroads have on broadband
deployment would be the best way to obtain funding for eliminating issues that railroads
cause to limit broadband service throughout this state and achieving statewide access to
broadband service.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
urge and request the House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Committee on
Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs to meet and function as a joint
committee to study the current effects that railroads have on broadband deployment and to
report its findings to the legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint committee shall solicit input,
recommendations, and advice from the following:

(1) AT&T.
(2) CenturyLink.
(3) Cleco.
(4) Cox Communications.
(5) CSX Transportation.
(6) EATEL.
(7) Entergy.
(8) The Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives.
(9) The BNSF Railway.
(10) The Canadian National Railway.
(12) Hunt Telecommunications.
(13) The Kansas City Southern Railway.
(14) The Louisiana Cable Association.
(15) The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.
(16) The Louisiana Internet and Television Association.
(17) The Louisiana Public Service Commission.
(18) The Louisiana Southern Railroad.
(20) The Norfolk Southern Railway.
(21) The Union Pacific Railroad Company.
(22) Unity Communications.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint committee 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 AT&T,
CenturyLink, Cleco, Cox Communications, CSX Transportation, EATEL, Entergy, the
Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, the BNSF Railway, the Canadian National
Railway, the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association, the Kansas City
Southern Railway, the Louisiana Cable Association, the Louisiana Department of
Transportation and Development, the Louisiana Internet and Television Association, the
Louisiana Public Service Commission, the Louisiana Southern Railroad, the Louisiana
Telecommunications Association, the Norfolk Southern Railway, the Union Pacific Railroad
Company, and Unity Communications.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute
part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Requests the House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce,
Consumer Protection, and International Affairs to meet and function as a joint committee
to study the current effects that railroads have on broadband deployment and to report its
findings to the legislature.