

RESOLUTION NO. 05 of 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

A RESOLUTION URGING AND REQUESTING THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT, ENCOURAGE, AND WORK TO PROVIDE HIGH SPEED INTERNET FOR RURAL LOUISIANA, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the Caddo Parish Commission strives to enhance the quality of life of for the residents of Caddo Parish, both personally and economically;

WHEREAS, high-speed internet service has become a necessary component to participating in the modern economy, healthcare and education, but this service is unavailable or of an inadequate quality for many residents;

WHEREAS all residents of Caddo Parish deserve the same educational, medical and economic opportunities as citizens served by high speed internet;

WHEREAS, neighboring states of our region have invested in the development of broadband infrastructure at varying levels, while Louisiana has made no financial investment thus far;

WHEREAS, Act No. 16 of the First Extraordinary Session of 2020 allows opportunities for installation by private providers using the infrastructure of the Rural Electric Cooperative and the Cooperatives themselves have been given permission to expand into broadband from the Public Service Commission recently;

WHEREAS, Act 24 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2020 establishes a Louisiana Office of Broadband that will allow a designated state office to seek funds and distribute in order to promote broadband installation in Louisiana;

WHEREAS, various departments of the Federal Government have made funds available for expansion of broadband targeted to rural areas. These funds provide an initial step toward bridging the digital divide,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission in due, regular and legal session convened, that the Caddo Parish Commission does hereby urge and request the Louisiana State Legislature to adopt legislation that will invest in the installation of high speed internet for rural Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Hon. Patrick Page Cortez, President of the Louisiana State Senate, the Hon. Clay Schexnayder, Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives, and the members of the Caddo Parish legislative delegation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved as to legal form:

Parish Attorney

Date