

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 12

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

TO THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-first Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

WHEREAS, Idaho's economy depends on the success of our rural communities, and Idaho's diverse terrain and unique culture is why our rural communities have such incredible character; and

WHEREAS, difficult terrain should not impede Idaho citizens from affordable access to broadband technology, because the survival of rural communities depends on continued access to advanced broadband technology; and

WHEREAS, broadband is a critical infrastructure like sewer, water, and electricity; and

WHEREAS, broadband connections from White Bird north to Grangeville do not exist and must be routed out of state; and

WHEREAS, there are not as many access hubs connecting rural communities to existing fiber optic cables throughout rural Idaho, thereby limiting access to effective broadband internet; and

WHEREAS, topographical challenges make internet infrastructure improvements very difficult and expensive; and

WHEREAS, rural municipalities and community facilities including hospitals and libraries are unable to maximize the use of internet technologies to their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Transportation Department right-of-way is a barrier to some telecom providers, and permitting could be streamlined; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission is encouraged to take the lead role in bringing together state agencies, local governments and tribal governments to facilitate a discussion about shared infrastructure and network openness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-first Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that we urge the Federal Communications Commission and the Idaho congressional delegation to support the continued use and economic vitality of the Universal Service Fund, the Connect America Fund and other resources to accelerate broadband telecommunications development in Idaho and other rural and frontier states.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the Federal Communications Commission, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and the

1 congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of
2 the United States.