2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 22

BY REPRESENTATIVE DESHOTEL

RAILROADS: Urges and requests the House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs to study the effects that the railroads have on broadband deployment

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Committee on
3	Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs to meet and function as
4	a joint committee to study the current effects that railroads have on broadband
5	deployment and to report its findings to the legislature.
6	WHEREAS, in the modern economy, access to broadband service is a lifeline to
7	quality of life and economic opportunity; and
8	WHEREAS, more advanced communication capabilities and access to broadband
9	service are needed in this state; and
10	WHEREAS, citizens of this state rely on critical infrastructure, including railroads,
11	to access broadband and connectivity to the regional, national, and global economy; and
12	WHEREAS, this critical infrastructure, including railroads, enhances the local,
13	regional, and state economy, the quality of life, and the strength of communities in this state;
14	and
15	WHEREAS, the continued lack of advanced communication capabilities and access
16	to broadband service in this state presents challenges to individuals residing and businesses
17	operating in this state, which can include deficiency in poor infrastructure, limited transit
18	options, scarcity of employment possibilities, lack of other technological advances, and
19	overall lack of economic growth; and

1	WHEREAS, a thorough and systematic study of the existing issues caused by the
2	lack of broadband access due to the effects that railroads have on broadband deployment is
3	necessary and appropriate; and
4	WHEREAS, the investment in and development of railroads to eliminate the issues
5	that railroads cause to limit broadband service is necessary to better serve individuals and
6	businesses in this state; and
7	WHEREAS, a study of the current effects that railroads have on broadband
8	deployment would be the best way to obtain funding for eliminating issues that railroads
9	cause to limit broadband service throughout this state and achieving statewide access to
10	broadband service.
11	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
12	urge and request the House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Committee on
13	Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs to meet and function as a joint
14	committee to study the current effects that railroads have on broadband deployment and to
15	report its findings to the legislature.
16	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint committee shall solicit input,
17	recommendations, and advice from the following:
18	(1) AT&T.
19	(2) CenturyLink.
20	(3) Cleco.
21	(4) Cox Communications.
22	(5) CSX Transportation.
23	(6) EATEL.
24	(7) Entergy.
25	(8) The Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives.
26	(9) The BNSF Railway.
27	(10) The Canadian National Railway.
28	(11) The Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association.
29	(12) Hunt Telecommunications.
30	(13) The Kansas City Southern Railway.

1	(14) The Louisiana Cable Association.
2	(15) The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.
3	(16) The Louisiana Internet and Television Association.
4	(17) The Louisiana Public Service Commission.
5	(18) The Louisiana Southern Railroad.
6	(19) The Louisiana Telecommunications Association.
7	(20) The Norfolk Southern Railway.
8	(21) The Union Pacific Railroad Company.
9	(22) Unity Communications.
10	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint committee shall report its findings to
11	the legislature prior to the convening of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature.
12	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted AT&T,
13	CenturyLink, Cleco, Cox Communications, CSX Transportation, EATEL, Entergy, the
14	Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, the BNSF Railway, the Canadian National
15	Railway, the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association, the Kansas City
16	Southern Railway, the Louisiana Cable Association, the Louisiana Department of
17	Transportation and Development, the Louisiana Internet and Television Association, the
18	Louisiana Public Service Commission, the Louisiana Southern Railroad, the Louisiana
19	Telecommunications Association, the Norfolk Southern Railway, the Union Pacific Railroad
20	Company, and Unity Communications.

DIGEST

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HCR 22 Original

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Deshotel

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.