

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 690

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that no Federal funds granted, awarded, or loaned pursuant to any legislation, infrastructure-specific or otherwise, should be used to fund the construction, improvement, or acquisition of broadband facilities or service in areas where there is an existing broadband provider that meets certain minimum standards.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 11, 2018

Mr. LANCE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that no Federal funds granted, awarded, or loaned pursuant to any legislation, infrastructure-specific or otherwise, should be used to fund the construction, improvement, or acquisition of broadband facilities or service in areas where there is an existing broadband provider that meets certain minimum standards.

Whereas the broadband industry, including wireline and wireless, has invested roughly \$1.6 trillion in private capital since 1996;

Whereas the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) included an unprecedented \$7.2 billion in broadband deployment funding;

Whereas there were allegations of waste and inefficiencies in ARRA grant programs;

Whereas the Federal Government should not compete with the private sector in broadband access or deployment;

Whereas the Federal Government should not pick winners and losers in a local broadband market by providing loans, grants, or subsidies to one provider over another;

Whereas broadband internet access is the infrastructure of the 21st century and crucial to economic development;

Whereas the digital divide is real for many Americans, especially in rural areas with no access to broadband; and

Whereas in order to decrease the digital divide efficiently, limited Federal dollars should be focused on areas of the country unserved by broadband: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
 2 resentatives that no Federal funds granted, awarded, or
 3 loaned pursuant to any legislation, infrastructure-specific
 4 or otherwise, should be used to fund the construction, im-
 5 provement, or acquisition of broadband facilities or service
 6 in areas where—

7 (1) another broadband service provider is al-
 8 ready offering service that meets the minimum
 9 standards of the Federal Communications Commis-
 10 sion; or

1 (2) another broadband service provider is al-
2 ready leveraging Federal program funds to deploy
3 networks and offer broadband service that will meet
4 the minimum standards of such program.

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