

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Rural telecommunications professionals are
2 gathering in Austin on February 21, 2017, to celebrate the
3 importance of Small and Rural Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers to
4 the prosperity of the Lone Star State; and

5 WHEREAS, Nearly 85 percent of Texas is considered rural;
6 encompassing 142 million acres in 172 counties, these areas are
7 home to more than 3.2 million people, the largest rural population
8 in the nation; and

9 WHEREAS, Each year, more than \$200 billion of the state's
10 gross domestic product is generated by such traditionally rural
11 industries as agriculture, forestry, hunting, and oil and gas
12 production, and these enterprises require the latest in modern
13 communications technology; and

14 WHEREAS, In response to this need, 45 Small and Rural ILECs
15 have built and continue to maintain a high-quality
16 telecommunications network that covers the vast majority of the
17 rural areas of the state, including those remote regions that are
18 most expensive to serve; and

19 WHEREAS, This state-of-the-art network provides critical
20 infrastructure for education, economic development, health care,
21 law enforcement, and border security; in addition, the Small and
22 Rural ILECs support more than 6,300 jobs and are responsible for
23 over \$2.5 billion in direct and indirect economic impact; and

24 WHEREAS, Small and Rural ILECs play a vital role in the

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1 dynamic economy of Texas in the 21st century, and they are truly
2 deserving of special recognition for their accomplishments and
3 contributions; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
5 Legislature hereby recognize February 21, 2017, as Small and Rural
6 Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers Day at the State Capitol and
7 extend to the visiting telecommunications professionals sincere
8 best wishes for a productive visit to Austin.

King of Uvalde

Straus	Goldman	Oliverson
Allen	Gonzales of Williamson	Ortega
Alonzo	González of El Paso	Paddie
Alvarado	Gooden	Parker
Anchia	Guerra	Paul
Anderson of Dallas	Guillen	Perez
Anderson of McLennan	Gutierrez	Phelan
Arévalo	Hefner	Phillips
Ashby	Hernandez	Pickett
Bailes	Herrero	Price
Bell	Hinojosa	Raney
Bernal	Holland	Raymond
Biedermann	Howard	Reynolds
Blanco	Huberty	Rinaldi
Bohac	Hunter	Roberts
Bonnen of Brazoria	Isaac	Rodriguez of Bexar
Bonnen of Galveston	Israel	Rodriguez of Travis
Burkett	Johnson of Dallas	Romero, Jr.
Burns	Johnson of Harris	Rose
Burrows	Kacal	Sanford
Button	Keough	Schaefer
Cain	King of Hemphill	Schofield
Canales	King of Parker	Schubert
Capriglione	King of Uvalde	Shaheen
Clardy	Klick	Sheffield
Coleman	Koop	Shine
Collier	Krause	Simmons
Cook	Kuempel	Smithee
Cortez	Lambert	Springer
Cosper	Landgraf	Stephenson
Craddick	Lang	Stickland
Cyrier	Larson	Stucky
Dale	Laubenberg	Swanson
Darby	Leach	Thierry
Davis of Dallas	Longoria	Thompson of Brazoria
Davis of Harris	Lozano	Thompson of Harris
Dean	Lucio III	Tinderholt
Deshotel	Martinez	Turner
Dukes	Metcalf	Uresti
Dutton	Meyer	VanDeaver
Elkins	Miller	Villalba
Faircloth	Minjarez	Vo
Fallon	Moody	Walle
Farrar	Morrison	White
Flynn	Muñoz, Jr.	Wilson
Frank	Murphy	Workman
Frullo	Murr	Wray
Geren	Neave	Wu
Gervin-Hawkins	Nevárez	Zedler
Giddings	Oliveira	Zerwas

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 428 was adopted by the House on February 21, 2017, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House