

By: King of Uvalde

H.R. No. 428

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

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.