

By: Anderson

H.R. No. 304

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Telecommunications professionals representing  
2 small rural providers are gathering in Austin on February 19, 2019,  
3 to celebrate their important contributions to the prosperity of the  
4 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 United States; 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 depend upon the latest modern  
13 communications technology; and

14           WHEREAS, In response to the need of these industries and  
15 their communities, 44 small and rural incumbent local exchange  
16 carriers are bringing a high-quality telecommunications network to  
17 the vast rural expanse of the state, including remote regions that  
18 are 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, these carriers  
22 support more than 6,300 jobs and are responsible for a direct and  
23 indirect economic impact of over \$2.5 billion; and

24           WHEREAS, Small and rural incumbent local exchange carriers

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

4       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
5 Legislature hereby recognize February 19, 2019, 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 their stay in Austin.