

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 216

WHEREAS, Telecommunications professionals from small and rural telecommunications providers across the state are gathering in Austin on February 19, 2019, to celebrate their important contributions to the prosperity of the Lone Star State and the state's goal of universal telecommunications services throughout the state; and

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

WHEREAS, Each year, more than \$200 billion of the Texas gross domestic product is generated by such traditionally rural industries as agriculture, forestry, hunting, and oil and gas production, and these enterprises require and depend on the latest in modern communications technology; and

WHEREAS, In response to the needs of these industries and their communities, 44 of the small and rural incumbent local exchange carriers of Texas, also known as small and rural ILECs, are bringing a high-quality telecommunications network to the vast rural expanse of the state, including remote regions that are most expensive to serve; and

WHEREAS, This state-of-the-art network provides critical infrastructure for education, economic development, health care, law enforcement, and border security; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the small and rural ILECs support more than 6,300 jobs and are responsible for over \$2.5 billion in direct and indirect economic impact to Texas; and

WHEREAS, These incumbent local exchange carriers play a vital role in the dynamic economy of Texas in the 21st century, and they are truly deserving of special recognition for their accomplishments and contributions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 86th Legislature, hereby recognize February 19, 2019, as Small and Rural Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting telecommunications professionals sincere best wishes for a memorable and productive visit to Austin.

Perry

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the
above Resolution was adopted by
the Senate on February 19, 2019.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate