



HR0581

LRB097 14303 KXB 59084 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, On July 2, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed
3 into law the Land Grant College Act of 1862, sponsored by
4 Vermont Congressman Justin Morrill; officially titled "An Act
5 Donating Public Lands to the Several States and Territories
6 which may provide Colleges for the Benefit of Agriculture and
7 the Mechanic Arts," the Morrill Act provided each state with
8 30,000 acres of federal land for each member in their
9 Congressional delegation; the land was then sold by the states
10 and the proceeds used to fund public colleges that focused on
11 agriculture and the mechanical arts; sixty-nine colleges were
12 funded by these land grants, including the University of
13 Illinois; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1890, the Second Morrill Land Grant Act of 1890
15 provided for an annual federal appropriation for the states,
16 including for use in agriculture and mechanic arts community
17 extension services, laying the basis for today's University of
18 Illinois Extension Service and subsequent community extension
19 services, including Illinois county fairs and the Illinois
20 State Fair in Springfield; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1901, Joliet Junior College was established as
22 America's first public community college, as an experimental
23 postgraduate high school program, the "brainchild" of J.

1 Stanley Brown, Superintendent of Joliet Township High School
2 and William Rainey Harper, President of the University of
3 Chicago; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1917, the federal Smith-Hughes National
5 Vocational Education Act of 1917 and subsequent federal
6 legislation provided for annual federal funding for vocational
7 and home economics programs, for vocational research,
8 including through the Perkins Vocational Education Act of 1984,
9 and for many technology skill programs carried out in high
10 schools and community colleges; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1936, the Rural Electrification Act provided
12 for the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) rural
13 development and the Rural Electrification Administration to
14 take responsibility, through loans and grants to cooperatives
15 and local providers, to bring electricity to rural America,
16 and, in 1949, the Rural Electrification Administration took
17 responsibility to extend telephone services to rural areas, and
18 became linked in 1965 and 1972 with the Appalachian Regional
19 Development and the Rural Development Acts, and became the
20 Rural Utilities Service in 1994; and

21 WHEREAS, With the many research projects in Illinois which
22 contributed to the development of the public Internet by 1995,
23 the University of Illinois extension and other parties created

1 pioneering online community development tools available in
2 every county by 1998, and, beginning in 2000, worked with the
3 USDA-supported Rural Partners, Illinois Rural Health
4 Association, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, the office
5 of the Lt. Governor under several administrations, and provider
6 and consumer organizations, to host annual Rural
7 Telecommunication and Health Conferences, initially bringing
8 together rural parties and then adding parties from
9 metropolitan Chicago in strong networks linking Internet
10 infrastructure, services, and policy; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1999 and 2000, the Illinois General Assembly
12 adopted the Illinois Century Network law, linking schools,
13 libraries, and other public institutions with Internet
14 services, and the Eliminate the Digital Divide Law to provide
15 digital literacy services through community technology centers
16 in low income communities throughout the State; now, the
17 Illinois Century Network serves 9000 schools, libraries, and
18 community anchor institutions, and plays a role as a major
19 "middle mile" fiber provider across the State; from 2002 to
20 2005, the statewide Illinois Community Technology Consortium
21 project (funded with \$1.3 million in community investment
22 proceeds from Ameritech-SBC merger and matched by \$2.7 million
23 in federal, community foundation, State, and local grants and
24 in-kind contributions), worked with institutions and circuit
25 riders in all regions of Illinois, with assistance from UI

1 Extension in evaluation, professional development, and
2 network-building; and

3 WHEREAS, From these efforts, in 2004 the University of
4 Illinois Urban and Regional Planning department created a
5 policy report for Illinois Online, which became the basis for
6 the creation of the Illinois Broadband Deployment Council in
7 2005, and with a newly appointed Broadband Deployment Council,
8 launched in 2010; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2007, the Illinois General Assembly adopted the
10 High Speed Internet Act which led to the creation of the
11 Illinois public-private partnership for broadband data,
12 infrastructure access, and extension of broadband adoption and
13 use; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2007, the Federal Communications Commission
15 began its Pilot Rural Health Care Program to link rural
16 hospitals, clinics, and providers through high speed Internet,
17 primarily fiber and fixed wireless, and the Illinois Rural
18 Health Net was awarded \$21 million for 3 years of activity,
19 which began after the Illinois General Assembly, in January
20 2009, provided matching funds, along with funding electronic
21 health record pilot programs in all regions of Illinois; and

22 WHEREAS, In 2008, the Rural Utilities Service, through the

1 federal Farm Bill and the 2009 American Recovery and
2 Reinvestment Act, took on major responsibilities to bring high
3 speed Internet, or broadband Internet, infrastructure, and
4 services to rural areas, in cooperation with the United States
5 Department of Commerce's National Telecommunication and
6 Information Administration; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2009 and 2010, Illinois institutions,
8 companies, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations
9 received about \$250 million in Federal USDA and Department of
10 Commerce infrastructure and services multi-year awards,
11 matched by broadband funds authorized by the Illinois General
12 Assembly capital bill, and coordinated through a series of
13 Regional Broadband Summits in Naperville, Chicago, Carbondale,
14 and Champaign; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2011, Illinois budget constraints presented
16 challenges to future financial support for some Internet
17 extension programs, including Internet infrastructure and
18 service programs after the completion of federal funding in
19 2013, and the need to provide for Illinois Eliminate the
20 Digital Divide digital literacy programs; public-private
21 cooperation has been pledged to develop multi-year structures
22 and commitments for sustainability of these programs,
23 including through networks developed and strengthened by the
24 Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity,

1 Illinois land grant institutions, State universities,
2 community colleges, and community anchor institution networks
3 in each of the 48 community college areas; and

4 WHEREAS, In fall 2011, the Federal Communications
5 Commission launched the Universal Service Reform Program to
6 integrate the provision of regular telephone service with
7 Internet service in all states, with the greatest impact on
8 rural areas that have opportunities to benefit from combined
9 world-class telephone and Internet service through
10 public-private cooperation; and

11 WHEREAS, Investments in Internet infrastructure and
12 services programs have been demonstrated to bring a 10 times
13 return-on-investment in economic activity, and to serve as
14 crucial anchors for Illinois research, development, and job
15 creation in technology firms supported by digital skills
16 programs at all levels; and

17 WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service cites the need
18 for Internet connectivity to increase from today's 65-70%
19 statewide (with many communities with less than 50%
20 connectivity) to 85-95% for the United States to remain
21 competitive in the world, and development organizations cite
22 the need for fiber and advanced fixed wireless facilities
23 providing from 100 megabit to 1 gigabit and higher service in

1 the next 5 years in order to retain and attract job-creating
2 development; and

3 WHEREAS, On September 10-15, 2012, almost 90,000
4 participants will convene at Chicago's McCormick Place for the
5 biannual International Manufacturing Technology Show,
6 including 9,000 students and educators at the Student Summit
7 (Chicago's largest trade show), and many public officials and
8 technology students and educators, as well as equipment
9 manufacturers from across the State will be attending;
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
12 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
13 we celebrate and commemorate, during 2012, the pioneering
14 activities of Illinois institutions, companies, and agencies,
15 particularly Land Grant-based research-teaching-extension
16 universities, State universities, and community colleges to
17 achieve Universal Internet Extension in Illinois; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That we work with the University of Illinois, the
20 Illinois Department of Economic Opportunity, and related
21 parties for Illinois and local elected officials to participate
22 in appropriate research and extension celebrations of the
23 Morrill Land Grant Act Sesquicentennial events, including

1 showcasing groundbreaking events for economic development, and
2 events at county fairs and the Illinois State Fair; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That we work with Illinois schools, libraries,
5 and community institutions to instill understanding of the
6 importance of Digital Age beginning-to-advanced technology
7 skills at all levels, including spreading regular information
8 about opportunities for students, families, and educators from
9 all regions of Illinois to work, including in local
10 presentations by public officials; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That we work to develop Illinois Broadband
12 Awareness Programs with Partnership for a Connected Illinois
13 and Community Anchor Institution networks in each library
14 district, municipality, and county, watershed and community
15 college districts, with regional planning bodies, and with
16 Internet extension and economic development teams to highlight
17 the benefits of broadband Internet skills and connectivity to
18 positively impact the lives of families, businesses, and
19 communities in meeting the 7 National Needs for Broadband
20 (Health, Economic Opportunity, Education, Energy &
21 Environment, Government Performance, Civic Engagement, and
22 Public Safety) developed in the Federal Communications
23 Commission's National Broadband Plan of 2010; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That we request the appropriate Illinois House
2 and Senate committees to work with their respective higher
3 education, education, telecommunications, economic
4 development, and healthcare committees, and with the Governor
5 and all Constitutional officers, to plan for such Morrill Act
6 Sesquicentennial commemoration and celebration events in
7 Illinois and elsewhere.