**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE MAY 13, 2015, AS “CONNECT SOUTH CAROLINA DAY” AND URGE ALL COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE PALMETTO STATE TO COMPLETE THEIR OWN CONNECT SOUTH CAROLINA ASSESSMENT AND TECHNOLOGY ACTION PLAN SO THEIR RESIDENTS CAN ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF HIGH‑SPEED BROADBAND SERVICE.

Whereas, access to broadband, or high‑speed computer data transmission, is essential for ensuring that South Carolina’s students receive a quality education; and

Whereas, further, access to broadband is one of the key infrastructure requirements for South Carolina’s business success in the globally competitive twenty‑first century. It is equally important to the unemployed who are looking for a job in South Carolina; and

Whereas, access to broadband is fundamental for optimal delivery of healthcare in South Carolina, and it enables the state’s emergency response teams to keep South Carolina’s citizens safe; and

Whereas, through broadband, South Carolinians can communicate at a reasonable cost with friends and family members around the world, and government entities can function efficiently and save money; and

Whereas, however, 337,168 of South Carolina’s citizens do not have access to broadband, according to the Federal Communications Commission’s current benchmark; and

Whereas, since 2009, Connect South Carolina has been conducting broadband community assessments and, with the voluntary support of all forty‑five of South Carolina’s service providers, has developed South Carolina’s only comprehensive Geographic Information System service map; and

Whereas, with the help of Connect South Carolina, six South Carolina communities (Abbeville, Anderson, Greenwood, and Lexington counties, as well as the City of Hartsville and the Town of Hilton Head Island) have published their technology action plans and earned the designation of Certified Connected Community; and

Whereas, on this date, May 13, 2015, thanks to the leadership of community champion Janet Claggett and the dedication of the Richland County Information Technology Department, Richland County, home to our state capital of Columbia, has successfully published its technology action plan and passed all the requirements to become America’s first Certified Connected Capital Community. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, declare May 13, 2015, as “Connect South Carolina Day” and urge all communities across the Palmetto State to complete their own Connect South Carolina assessment and technology action plan so their residents can enjoy the benefits of high‑speed broadband service.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Connect South Carolina.

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