

2020-0365

**INTRODUCED BY: MATTHEW JEWELL, PARISH PRESIDENT
ST. CHARLES PARISH COUNCIL**

RESOLUTION NO. 6531

A resolution urging the Louisiana Legislature to pass legislation which will invest in the installation of high speed internet for rural Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the St. Charles Parish Council strives to enhance the quality of life of its residents, both personally and economically; and,

WHEREAS, high-speed internet service has become a necessary component to participating in the modern economy, healthcare and education, but this service is unavailable or of an inadequate quality for many residents; and,

WHEREAS, residents of St. Charles Parish deserve the same educational, medical and economic opportunities as citizens in parishes served by high speed internet; and,

WHEREAS, neighboring states of our region have invested in the development of broadband infrastructure at varying levels, while Louisiana has made no financial investment thus far; and,

WHEREAS, legislation has been passed over the past year to allow opportunities for installation by private providers using the infrastructure of the Rural Electric Cooperative and the Cooperatives themselves have been given permission to expand into broadband from the Public Service Commission recently; and,

WHEREAS, legislation has been passed this year to establish a Louisiana Office of Broadband that will allow a designated state office to seek funds and distribute in order to promote broadband installation in Louisiana; and,

WHEREAS, various departments of the Federal Government have made funds available for expansion of broadband targeted to rural areas. These funds provide an initial step toward bridging the digital divide.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE ST. CHARLES PARISH COUNCIL, do hereby urge the Louisiana Legislature to pass legislation which will invest in the installation of high speed internet for rural Louisiana.

The foregoing resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: DONALDSON, FONSECA, DARENSBOURG GORDON, CLULEE, GIBBS, BELLOCK, FISHER, FISHER-PERRIER

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: DUFRENE

And the resolution was declared adopted this 21st day of December, 2020, to become effective five (5) days after publication in the Official Journal.

CHAIRMAN: [Signature]
SECRETARY: Michelle Dupontato
DLVD/PARISH PRESIDENT: December 22, 2020
APPROVED: DISAPPROVED:

PARISH PRESIDENT: Matthew Jewell
RETD/SECRETARY: December 22, 2020
AT: 3:04 pm RECD BY: [Signature]