

No. R-213. House concurrent resolution congratulating ECFiber on establishing its 1,000th customer connection.

(H.C.R.159)

Offered by: Representatives Masland of Thetford, Briglin of Thetford, Christie of Hartford, French of Randolph, Haas of Rochester, Hooper of Montpelier, Lucke of Hartford, and Ryerson of Randolph

Whereas, ECFiber is a municipally owned and citizen-operated organization dedicated to bringing 21st century fiber-optic connectivity to every household, business, and institution in its 24 member towns in east central Vermont, and

Whereas, beginning with a small gathering in the Tunbridge town hall basement in 2007, each of the 24 municipalities approved ECFiber's establishment through town meeting and local legislative body votes, and

Whereas, having persevered through the great recession, tropical storms, and other travails, and true to the Vermont values of self-reliance and citizen action, ECFiber's governing board built its first connection in 2011, and

Whereas, ECFiber is demonstrating that state-of-the-art fiber-optic broadband can be a reality for all Vermonters, when citizens and municipalities work together to reduce costs and remove barriers to successful deployment, and

Whereas, more than 100 volunteers are contributing to the success of ECFiber's network, engaging their neighbors, surveying routes, and even digging ditches for friends' underground connections, and

Whereas, local citizens, eager to bring their families and businesses critically important and dependable high-speed broadband, have invested more than \$6,000,000.00 to build more than 200 miles of fiber-optic network, and

Whereas, in April 2015, ECFiber's 1,000th customer connected to the ever-growing community of families, businesses, and institutions that are taking advantage of educational, medical, economic, and other internet-based opportunities, and

Whereas, this laudable achievement was the result of ECFiber's dedicated volunteers and staff, who are committed to extending the entrepreneurial, economic, and educational advantages of high-speed Internet access to the Vermonters in their service area, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates ECFiber on establishing its 1000th customer connection, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the governing board of ECFiber.