

1 TO THE HONORABLE SENATE:

2 The Committee on Finance to which was referred J.R.H. 1 entitled “Joint  
3 resolution expressing support for the Public Service Board’s establishment of a  
4 FairPoint Communications service investigation docket and urging the  
5 management of FairPoint Communications to settle the current employee strike  
6 in order to restore reliable telecommunications services in Vermont” has  
7 considered the same and recommends that the Senate propose to the House that  
8 the resolution be amended by striking it out in its entirety and inserting in lieu  
9 thereof the following:

10 Joint resolution expressing support for the Public Board’s establishment of  
11 a FairPoint Communications service investigation docket and urging the  
12 settlement of the current employee strike

13 Whereas, in October 2014, FairPoint and its employees’ two unions, the  
14 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2326 and the  
15 Communications Workers of America Local 1400, reached an impasse in their  
16 negotiations and a strike was authorized, and

17 Whereas, since the strike started, consumer complaints have risen  
18 approximately 500 percent, resulting in much personal and commercial  
19 inconvenience, and

1        Whereas, the Vermont Public Service Department has received more than  
2        1,200 complaints about Internet and telephone service since the strike  
3        began, and

4        Whereas, on November 28, 2014, the State's E-911 system missed  
5        83 calls, and

6        Whereas, the Vermont Public Service Department has said that the numbers  
7        show FairPoint staffing has been insufficient, and

8        Whereas, FairPoint is the only choice for telecommunications service for  
9        between 15,000 and 20,000 Vermonters, and

10       Whereas, at the request of the Department of Public Service, the Public  
11       Service Board, on December 9, 2014, established Docket 8390 to investigate  
12       the service problems FairPoint has encountered, and

13       Whereas, Governor Peter Shumlin, the congressional delegation, and the  
14       leadership of the General Assembly's Working Vermonters Caucus have  
15       written letters to FairPoint's CEO Paul Sunu calling on FairPoint to return in  
16       good faith to the negotiating table, and

17       Whereas, on January 4, 2015, in Washington, D.C., the Federal Mediation  
18       and Conciliation Service convened a meeting between the parties at which the  
19       Service assumed a more proactive role than in a prior session, now  
20       therefore be it

