

Senate Communications & Technology Committee

Senator Mike Folmer Chairman

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SUMMARY Senate Resolution 10 (PN 134) Prime Sponsor: Senator Folmer

Background:

Last Session, both the Senate Communications & Technology Committee and the full Senate unanimously approved Senate Resolution 133, which established principles in the expenditure of federal stimulus moneys. These principles were used to assess a number of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects, including PennREN (Pennsylvania Research & Education Network).

SR 10 (PN 134):

Senate Resolution 10 is identical to last Session's SR 133. However, while the principles of SR 133 are still relevant, they are now less timely.

Amendment A02499 (Folmer):

Amendment A0xxxx applies the principles of last Session's SR 133 relating to the expenditure of federal stimulus moneys to both federal and state expenditures for technology strategies so as to maximize state and federal moneys for implementing these strategies:

- Broadband leadership at the state level through a system that promotes openness, transparency, and accountability;
- Leverage existing public and private infrastructure;
- Develop competitive bid processes;
- Address public safety concerns through broadband deployment;
- Provide appropriate incentives for investment in underserved and unserved regions;
- Link with proven existing programs and stimulating demand through anchor tenants, schools, hospitals and other community anchors;
- Focus on the final leg of delivering services to a customer ("last mile") for connecting residential broadband customers;
- Update broadband mapping that is delivered immediately after collection ("real-time data") and insisting on data transparency;
- Establish meaningful reports and accountability for all projects;
- Invest in state-of-the-art infrastructure, and;
- Ensure all projects receiving public tax money have proven, identified sustainability plans after the tax money is used.