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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 486

Offered February 23, 2009

*Commending the City of Bristol.*

Patrons—Wampler and Puckett; Delegates: Bowling, Carrico, Johnson and Kilgore

Whereas, the city leadership of Bristol, Virginia, showed extraordinary vision in encouraging Bristol Virginia Utilities to commence deployment of an all-fiber-optic network to meet future bandwidth demands of businesses and consumers in the city; and

Whereas, in 2003, the City of Bristol, Virginia d/b/a Bristol Virginia Utilities, having won litigation and legislative attempts to block its efforts, became the first municipal utility in the nation to launch an all fiber-to-the-user network that provides the "triple play" of digital phone, video and data services; and

Whereas, Bristol Virginia Utilities achieved a plus 60 percent market penetration of its service area within the first five years; and

Whereas, with grant funding and a partnership with the Cumberland Plateau Company, Bristol Virginia Utilities extended BVU OptiNet into four rural counties in Southwest Virginia; and

Whereas, the presence of BVU OptiNet enabled leaders in Russell County, Virginia, to draw technology giants Northrop Grumman and CGI, Inc. to Southwest Virginia, resulting in 1,300 new jobs; and

Whereas, Bristol Virginia Utilities continues to gain support and funding to extend its fiber-to-the-user network to more and more of rural Southwest Virginia; and

Whereas, Bristol Virginia Utilities, with this Assembly's approval, launched the brand BVU FOCUS to offer broadband solutions for other municipalities in and out of the Commonwealth; and

Whereas, Bristol Virginia's broadband accomplishments have garnered state, national and international recognition, among which are the 2008 Virginia Governor's Technology Award, the 2008 National League of Cities Gold Award for Municipal Excellence, and both the 2009 Smart21 and Top 7 "Most Intelligent Communities of the Year"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend the City of Bristol for its extraordinary achievements in municipal broadband; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the City of Bristol as an expression of the General Assembly's best wishes for all staffs and governing bodies to have continued success in their pioneering ventures.

INTRODUCED

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