Expressing the sense of the General Assembly with regard to including Southwest Virginia in the Commonwealth's efforts to attract and encourage information technology growth in Virginia.

> Patron-Wampler

Referred to Committee on Rules
WHEREAS, the growth of information technology is fundamentally changing the way in which we communicate, learn, conduct business, transact financial services, and are entertained; and

WHEREAS, geographic borders cannot contain the opportunities presented by expanding information technology, thus erasing obstacles to education and commerce presented by distance and topography; and

WHEREAS, information technology provides consumers and producers with access to markets, products, and services never before possible; and

WHEREAS, electronic commerce promises to become an increasingly vital component of the Commonwealth's economy; and

WHEREAS, the global electronic commerce made possible by expanding information technology is a 21st century economic development tool, opening the door for today's commercial pioneers to develop new businesses and revitalize existing businesses; and

WHEREAS, Southwest Virginia offers an ambitious workforce which could benefit greatly from economic opportunities offered by emerging information technology; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That steps be taken to include Southwest Virginia in the Commonwealth's efforts to attract and encourage information technology growth in Virginia [ ; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Technology and the Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System in order that they be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly in this matter ] .

