

A RESOLUTION URGING THE 109TH CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO REJECT HOUSE RESOLUTION 2726 AS INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMAN PETE SESSIONS ON MAY 26, 2005

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 6, 2005

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County has made a commitment to the development of a wireless high speed internet network for Washtenaw County that is equally available in urban, suburban and rural settings in 2007; and

WHEREAS, this initiative, known as Wireless Washtenaw, plans to provide citizens and visitors a pleasant, seamless wireless Internet experience; support economic development and improve the quality of life in Washtenaw County; serve as a model for other communities to observe, learn from and use the knowledge gained to promote similar services in their own communities; provide a model of cooperation and collaboration between government, business and education; and reduce the digital divide; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County has received the support of the local community in its Wireless Washtenaw endeavor, including, but not limited to, the University of Michigan, the Washtenaw Intermediate School District, Eastern Michigan University, as well as our townships, villages, and cities—many of whom have already passed resolutions of support; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County has no intent to own and operate the wireless internet network, only intending to facilitate and streamline its development so that the private sector can finally extend telecommunication infrastructure equally; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Pete Sessions of Texas introduced House Resolution 2726, titled the "Preserving Innovation in Telecom Act of 2005," on May 26, 2005 with the purpose of prohibiting "municipal governments from offering telecommunications, information, or cable services except to remedy market failures by private enterprise to provide such services"; and

WHEREAS, House Resolution 2726, as introduced, stands to endanger the success and completion of the Wireless Washtenaw initiative;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby urges the 109th Congress of the United States to reject House Resolution 2726 as introduced by Congressman Pete Sessions on May 26, 2005;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners urges Congress to carefully consider the impact of all federal telecommunications legislation as it may inhibit the ability of local governments to support the needs of their citizens;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners directs the County Clerk to forward certified copies of this resolution to Senator Carl Levin and Senator Debbie Stabenow, Congressman John Dingell and Congressman Joe Schwarz; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners directs the County Administrator to forward a copy of this resolution, after certification by the County Clerk, to the Michigan Association of Counties, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, all Michigan Counties and to each organization and community involved in or considering the development of a wireless internet network.