Resolution Regarding A Southern States High Performance Supercomputer Network Grid

Sponsored by Governor Mark R. Warner of Virginia
Approved September 13, 2004
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Whereas, the Southeastern United States is home to more than one-third of the population of the United States;

Whereas, the region receives a disproportionately small proportion of federal spending for research and development, given its population;

Whereas, the Southern Governors' Association believes that the establishment of advanced networking capability within the region will enhance its science capacity and improve the competitive position of the South in the national and global economies;

Whereas, the Southern Governors' Association has expressed a goal of improving the South's abilities in the areas of science and technology and is committed to the Southern eCorridors Project;

Whereas, the creation and development of an extensive advanced networking infrastructure offers the region unprecedented opportunities for the communication of information for education and research, public health and safety, homeland security, and other purposes;

Whereas, the Southern Governors' Association has proposed linking the region's telehealth and telecommunications infrastructure to enhance homeland security;

Whereas, in line with the goals stated above, the expansion of regional broadband capability is a top priority for the Southern states;

Whereas, the Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) has engaged in the development of creative public-private partnerships with state governments, its higher education community and well-positioned corporate partners to gain access to and potential ownership of high-performance networking assets, thereby creating a high performance network grid;

Whereas, as of today, of the eleven states in which NLR connections, or “nodes” exist, seven are located in the South, and the Southern region is poised to lead the nation in high-speed research capacity;
Whereas, SURA has deployed fiber through the SURA-AT&T GridFiber Agreement for use along the I-10 corridor from Jacksonville to Houston, assisting the Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) to establish an NLR node in Baton Rouge; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Southern Governors' Association endorses SURA's proposal to create a high-performance network grid in support of "Aligning State Government and Higher Education to Strengthen the Science Capacity and Economic Competitiveness of the South"; and

Resolved, That the staff of the Southern Governors' Association and SURA work together to ensure the compatibility of the high-performance computing and networking technologies of the higher education community and state governments and to leverage these systems and the network to improve the science capacity and economic competitiveness of the region through the Southern eCorridors Project.