

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. J. RES. 133

To express the sense of the Congress that the President recognize the role rural communities play in the economy of the United States and express this recognition through appropriate emphasis on rural economic development when preparing the administration's economic proposals.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 1993

Mr. CLEMENT introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## **JOINT RESOLUTION**

To express the sense of the Congress that the President recognize the role rural communities play in the economy of the United States and express this recognition through appropriate emphasis on rural economic development when preparing the administration's economic proposals.

Whereas 3,449,000 square acres or 97.5 percent of the land area in America is defined as "Rural" by the United States Bureau of the Census;

Whereas 61,656,000 or 24 percent of the American population reside in rural communities;

Whereas rural areas provide a strong traditional heritage which has continued to be vital to the American spirit;

Whereas rural communities play a vital role in the economic health and well-being of the United States;

Whereas 21 percent of total United States employment is located in rural areas;

Whereas the 1980's saw the gap between rural and urban relative income increase to the effect that rural per capita income was only 72.2 percent of urban per capita income;

Whereas the rural poverty rate in 1990 was 16.3 percent higher than in 1972;

Whereas employment rose 21 percent in metro areas between 1979 and 1989, while employment increased by only 12 percent in rural areas within the same time period;

Whereas the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 75 percent of all waste water facility development needs are located in rural communities with fewer than 10,000 residents;

Whereas more than one-half of the Nation's 3,100,000 miles of rural roads are unpaved and many of the paved roads are in inadequate conditions;

Whereas the Federal Highway Administration estimates that there are more than 180,000 deficient bridges in the United States, most of which exist in rural areas;

Whereas the 1990 Census confirms that more than one-half of all rural counties lost population due to the migration of younger workers in search of higher paying jobs in urban areas; and

Whereas a Federal role is critical to foster an environment conducive to economic growth in rural areas of our Nation: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2       *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3       That the 103d Congress urges the President to recognize  
4       the important role of rural areas when planning and im-  
5       plementing the economic agenda of the United States and  
6       to place considerable emphasis on rural economic develop-  
7       ment when considering infrastructure, small business as-  
8       sistance, and education and development initiatives.

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