

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 27, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

We write to thank you for committing to a rigorous review of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. As you may be aware, Republican senators have previously raised concerns with the Biden administration's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and its implementation of the BEAD program. Specifically, NTIA ignored congressional direction and acted inconsistently with its statutory authority in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA),<sup>1</sup> filling the program with onerous regulations that prevented the quick, efficient deployment of broadband and resulted in not a single household being connected to the internet. Therefore, we urge you to remove the Biden-era extraneous regulations as you review the BEAD program to ensure the responsible and effective use of taxpayer dollars.

In particular, we encourage you to remove the BEAD program's restrictive labor requirements that disadvantage rural communities, provisions favoring government-owned networks over private investment, and guidelines that prioritize certain technologies over others and clearly contradict congressional pursuit of tech-neutrality.

Furthermore, despite the IIJA's explicit prohibition on broadband rate regulation, NTIA exceeded its statutory authority and attempted to enact rate regulations anyway. The inclusion of climate change mandates further diverted funds and focus away from the program's primary objective of ensuring broadband access for unserved and underserved communities. These unnecessary bureaucratic barriers slow deployment, increase costs, and ultimately run contrary to the very purpose of the program and should also be removed. Even the former Director of the BEAD program recently admitted that many of these woke requirements were "inserted by the prior administration for messaging/political purposes" and "never central to the mission of the program."<sup>2</sup>

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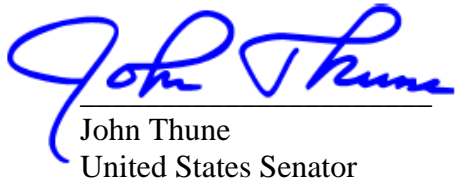
<sup>1</sup> Letter from Republican Members of the S. Comm., on Commerce, Science, & Transp. to the Hon. Alan Davidson, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information (April 20, 2023).

<sup>2</sup> John Hendel, *Top Broadband Official Exits Commerce Department with Sharp Musk Warning*, POLITICO (Mar. 16, 2025), <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/03/16/official-exits-commerce-department-musk-warning-00232278>.

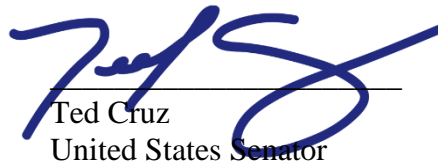
Under your leadership, the BEAD program can finally fulfill its long overdue mission and ensure taxpayer dollars are not spent funding extraneous, burdensome regulations. Eliminating these obstacles will empower states to work closely with broadband providers and accelerate deployment, maximize resources, and reach truly unserved and underserved communities without any more delay caused by unnecessary government interference.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. We appreciate your leadership in reviewing and addressing these concerns, and we look forward to working with you.

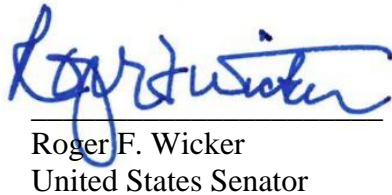
Sincerely,



John Thune  
United States Senator



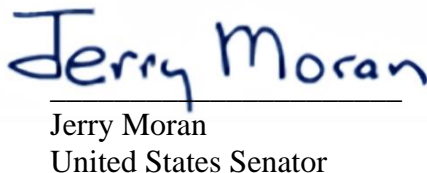
Ted Cruz  
United States Senator



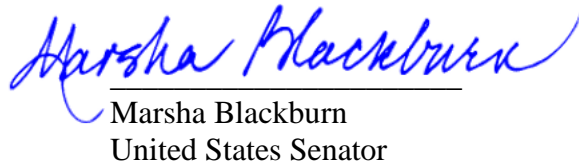
Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator



Deb Fischer  
United States Senator



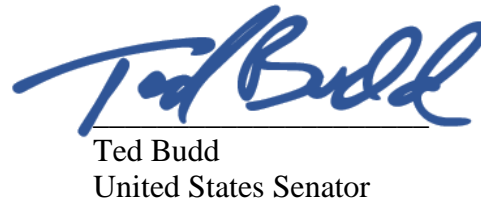
Jerry Moran  
United States Senator



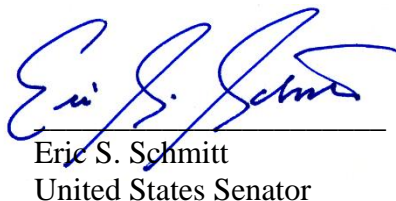
Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator



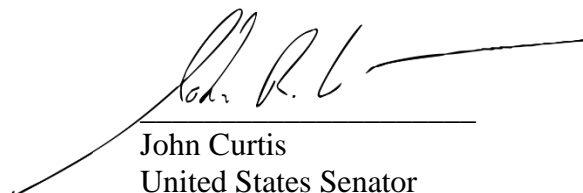
Todd Young  
United States Senator



Ted Budd  
United States Senator



Eric S. Schmitt  
United States Senator



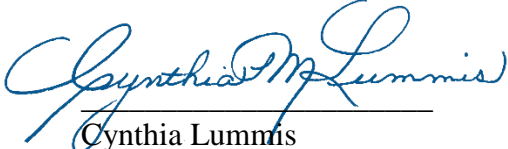
John Curtis  
United States Senator



Bernie Moreno  
United States Senator



Tim Sheehy  
United States Senator



Cynthia Lummis  
United States Senator