

September 29, 2026

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

We write to urge prompt issuance of guidance regarding the use of Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program funds for non-deployment activities. As you know, approximately \$21 billion in BEAD funding remains following the approval of state proposals for broadband deployment. Prompt guidance from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on eligible non-deployment activities is essential to providing all Americans with broadband access.

Congress established the \$42 billion BEAD Program through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act with the goal of ensuring that every American has access to quality, high-speed broadband. Closing the digital divide requires not only broadband infrastructure investments, but also complementary efforts to support adoption and other activities that maximize the value of those investments. States have dedicated significant time and resources developing their BEAD plans and are eager to use their full awarded allocations to connect every American with broadband service.

NTIA approved all 56 BEAD Final Proposals by the end of last month. In early September, NTIA announced an additional round of funding to address locations that remain unserved. This is a worthy goal but one that can advance with a parallel effort providing non-deployment funding supporting the long-term success of broadband investments.

Non-deployment activities authorized under the BEAD Program are meant to complement efforts to expand broadband access. Activities consistent with the statute such as workforce development programs, telehealth connectivity and technical assistance for rural small businesses enjoy bipartisan support. These investments will not only improve quality of life for millions of Americans, but also strengthen local economies, support businesses and enable communities to fully participate in the digital economy.

We respectfully urge the NTIA to promptly issue guidance on the uses of BEAD non-deployment funds consistent with the statute and Congress's intent. Ensuring states can responsibly deploy these resources will help maximize the impact of this historic investment and advance our shared goal of connecting all Americans to high-speed broadband internet.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response.

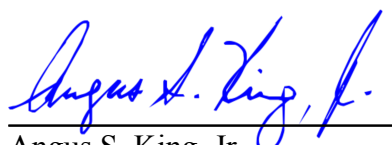
Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



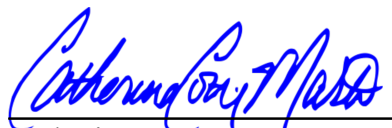
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

Cc: The Honorable Arielle Roth
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
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