USTELECOM | THE BROADBAND ASSOCIATION

JONATHAN SPALTER
President and Chief Executive Officer

The Honorable XXXX
Governor of XXXXX
The Capitol
ADDRESS

Dear Governor XXXXX,

[STATE] is standing at the precipice of a historic moment for the future of connectivity in America. As you finalize your revised BEAD proposal for consideration by the U.S. Department of Commerce, you have a choice in whether your unserved communities are connected with the fastest, most future-proofed, economic, and scalable communications networks they deserve, or forced to accept lower connectivity standards than the rest of the country.

As you make this choice, recent Department of Commerce guidance is crystal clear: as the leader of your state who best understands the needs of your communities, you have the power to deliver the broadband options that you deem most effective for your constituents. As the guidance itself expressly states, "One of the primary objectives…is to ensure that [states] have flexibility to award the set of proposals that deliver high-quality service for a reasonable cost. In pursuit of that core objective, both [the government] and the public are keenly aware of the unique role fiber plays in the Internet backbone and in providing backhaul capacity for all broadband technologies."

With a lifespan of 30+ years, fiber is the best and most cost-effective investment to connect your citizens to the digital economy well into the future. It builds real infrastructure that supports everything from precision agriculture to telehealth to remote learning and beyond.

Broadband providers in your state are ready to put shovels in the ground to rapidly deliver fiber technology to your communities. Our goal is to ensure your constituents can fully and quickly participate in the future of our economy and to help bring advanced manufacturing, next-gen technologies, AI data centers, and all the many other benefits that fiber alone can deliver for rural America. After all, BEAD was not designed to be a backward-looking program that relegates your constituents to the slow lane of the internet highway. Instead, it must be focused wherever possible on delivering to our communities the fastest and most scalable connectivity technology available.

You have the opportunity at this moment to advance in your broadband proposal the best possible connectivity. We urge you to consider what this means for your communities and make the right decision that best meets, and exceeds, their needs and the needs of future generations – now, and for a brighter, more connected tomorrow.

We stand ready and eager to answer your questions and look forward to continuing the conversation.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Spalter