

April 21, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: H.R.7567 - Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of America's broadband providers, I write to voice our strong support for The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026.

Across the country, broadband providers have capital committed and equipment staged—ready to connect rural communities with modern communications networks. Yet too often, these projects are delayed for months or even years as agencies struggle to approve permits, even in existing rights-of-way where infrastructure is already in place. This legislation reflects a simple principle: we should not be re-reviewing projects that have already been evaluated and approved.

USTelecom urges swift passage of the Farm Bill to cut unnecessary red tape and help providers deploy networks more quickly and efficiently. Reducing these avoidable delays will lower costs, accelerate private investment, and most importantly, ensure that rural families, farmers, and small businesses are not left waiting for the connectivity that drives opportunity.

This same commitment to delivering tangible results for rural communities is reflected in the bill's reinforced support for the ReConnect Program. For millions of rural Americans, broadband is the backbone of modern agriculture, small business growth, telehealth access, and educational opportunity. The Farm Bill's continued support for the ReConnect Program is essential to closing connectivity gaps and delivering the high-speed, resilient, scalable networks that rural communities need to fully participate in today's economy.

Taken together, these provisions illustrate a clear commitment to rural prosperity. They ensure that federal resources are used effectively, that infrastructure can be deployed without unnecessary delay, and that rural communities are not left behind as the demands on our networks continue to grow. At a time when global competitors are investing aggressively in digital infrastructure, the United States must match that urgency by accelerating deployment here at home.

The House should pass the Farm Bill without delay and seize this opportunity to deliver meaningful, lasting benefits to rural communities across the country. USTelecom and our

members stand ready to partner with Congress to ensure these policies translate into real-world connectivity and economic growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Spalter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jonathan Spalter