



Jeff Landry
Governor

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September 8, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary of Commerce
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

We commend the Department of Commerce's NTIA for its recent restructuring of the BEAD program. Simply put, the "Benefit of the Bargain" worked. Your clear vision to return BEAD to its core statutory mandate has delivered rapid, decisive benefits. You have delivered in only a few months what the Biden NTIA failed to deliver in over three years of paperwork, endless reviews, and the piling-on of unnecessary and in some cases illegal regulatory burdens; a technology-neutral, cost-effective BEAD program that has allowed states to tailor their programs to their unique geographic and economic circumstances. In short, the Benefit of the Bargain has faithfully delivered on the statutory intent of the BEAD program, and millions of rural Americans stand to benefit in the time ahead.

As a result of your reforms, Louisiana and many other states will have significant remaining funds that can be further invested to advance the Administration's priorities. As the first state to submit our Final Proposal ahead of the September 4th deadline, *we respectfully request that you continue to hew closely to the statute by directing that remaining BEAD allocations be invested in state-led initiatives, subject to NTIA review, that advance the following key national priorities:*

- White House Winning the Race, America's AI Action Plan – July 2025
 - Especially considering goals around Adoption, Workforce, Government and Infrastructure
- American First Policy Initiatives / Make America Great Again Policies
 - Focused on Investing in Education, Training the Workforce and Growing our industries

Congress granted NTIA clear authority to pursue this path. 47 U.S.C. § 1701(e) (4)(D) (ii)(III) provides that "if the Assistant Secretary approves the final proposal..., shall make available to the eligible entity the remainder of the grant funds allocated...". 47 U.S.C. § 1701(f) (6) then explicitly grants you wide discretion in directing how these remaining funds can be used for "any use determined necessary...to facilitate the goals of the Program."

We therefore suggest that NTIA issue clear guidance on October 1, 2025, instructing states to submit non-deployment plans that may only include projects that advance one or both above within 60 days (December 1, 2025). We ask that proposals be evaluated on a rolling basis, and awards announced by you and President Trump no later than January 20, 2026. Any proposals not aligned with these goals should be denied, and impacted state allocations be re-assigned to other states, as authorized by 47 U.S.C. § 1701(c)(5)(C).

This approach would vividly demonstrate the business and financial savvy that is a hallmark of your department and the Administration overall: *"President Trump and Secretary Lutnick to reinvest billions of dollars of program efficiencies in AI and America First Policies,"* focused on rural/urban economies while generating an even higher return for the taxpayer. The contrast to the previous administration's failed policies could not be clearer.

We would be more than happy to offer the leadership of our broadband team to help you and the team develop thoughts around the guidance.

Thank you for your continued leadership in this critical moment. We are ready to work swiftly and efficiently to guide federal investment to achieve our shared objective: a stronger, efficient, and connected America ready to execute President Trump's Make America Great Again Agenda.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Landry", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeff Landry
Governor