AMERICAN BROADBAND ACT
FAQ ON CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN RURAL AMERICA

How will the American Broadband Act help connect rural communities?

The American Broadband Act relies on targeted investments and removes regulatory barriers that have made it difficult to serve rural areas. This more accurate and light-touch regulatory approach ensures reliable, affordable access for the communities who need it most.The American Broadband Act requires the use of the FCC's forthcoming, accurate broadband maps by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which has insight into the unique needs of particular states, including rural institutions.

This differs from proposals put forth by the Biden Administration and others which would waste hard-earned taxpayer dollars by relying on inefficient government-run networks that are often mismanaged. Those proposals also don't target support to truly unserved communities who are most in need of these broadband investments.

Why do we need the FCC's forthcoming broadband maps?

These maps will help Federal agencies to identify communities without broadband access to ensure that targeted federal broadband support reaches truly unserved areas and is not used to fund wasteful overbuilding. Experts agree that these maps are key to closing the digital divide and ensuring that unserved rural communities gain access to reliable, high-speed broadband networks.

Proposals by the Biden Administration would target funding to areas that already have access to broadband.

Why do we need to avoid a one-size-fits-all approach to broadband funding?

The Administration's one-size-fits-all approach doesn't reflect how Americans use the Internet and it prioritizes areas that are already served over rural and unserved communities. This will only exacerbate the digital divide in rural America, especially when it comes to accessing high-speed mobile services.

The American Broadband Act offers an alternative that instead prioritizes rural and unserved areas. It ensures 100% of those areas are eligible for federal funding so we can avoid overbuilding in areas that already have broadband access.

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