



# SERVING RURAL AMERICA ACT

REP WITTMAN (R-VA)

This legislation would create a five-year pilot grant program at the Federal Communications Commission, authorizing \$100 million a year for a total of \$500 million over five years to expand broadband service to unserved areas of the country.

## Specifics

- To be eligible, an internet service provider is required to partner with a locality, city, county, wireless authority, or planning district commission to ensure the needs and input of residents are included.
- Prioritizes funding to areas without 25Mbps/3Mbps.
- Includes important measures to ensure interagency coordination and safeguards against overbuilding of other federally funded broadband projects.
- Features a challenge process that allows the public or other existing service providers in the proposed service area to submit a challenge to the FCC, to determine whether the proposed project would duplicate existing broadband service in the proposed service area.
- Ensures transparency throughout the application process by requiring providers to submit where they will and will not provide service, the quality and speed of service they will provide, and periodic testing to monitor whether or not providers are meeting their service buildout requirements.
- Includes important measures to improve mapping including: analysis of third party data, crowd sourcing, and site specific testing in service areas where mapping data has been contested.
- Instructs the FCC to report to Congress annually on the progress of the program based on buildout data provided by recipients.



Will help bring access to the approximately 19 million Americans who still lack high speed internet



Encourages coordination between providers to better determine the available service in a proposed service area

Prevents overbuilding by limiting federal broadband support to one provider in a rural area



Technology neutral to ensure new infrastructure is viable for generations