The Honorable Howard Lutnick Secretary of Commerce 1401 Constitution Ave NW Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

We remain committed to ensuring the BEAD Program delivers on its promise to strengthen the U.S. economy and connect rural Americans with the opportunities enabled by high-speed internet. We share the Administration's goal of getting broadband built quickly, efficiently, and in a way that stands the test of time.

However, recent guidance from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) raises concerns that the program could be slowed just as states are gaining momentum. We believe states should have the flexibility to select the technology that best supports broadband service. Requiring states to rebid previously approved selections threatens to upend years of planning and taxpayer resources have already been spent.

We are also concerned that rural Americans could potentially receive slower broadband service through new plan requirements. This program was intended to strengthen underserved areas by providing the highest-performance and most scalable networks, so they can compete in the modern economy. In many of our districts, higher deployment costs are a reality. A one-size-fits all model puts rural communities at a disadvantage.

We urge NTIA to preserve the program's original intent while streamlining deployment efforts to avoid further disruptions. We look forward to working with you on this important priority because time is of the essence.

Sincerely,

Angie Craig

Member of Congress

Robert J. Wittman

Member of Congress

Roled & Willman

Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Adam Gray
Member of Congress

Cc: Vince Haley, White House Domestic Policy Council