



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

September 17, 2020

The Honorable Robert J. Wittman
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Wittman:

Thank you for your letter seeking support for dedicated funding for rural broadband deployment in a future infrastructure package. The President has asked that I respond on his behalf. I share your perspective about the importance of broadband connectivity to all Americans, including those living in rural areas as well as students and low-income families, during this challenging time in our Nation's history. The Department of Commerce (Department) is committed to supporting and advancing the Trump Administration's broadband priorities, and that includes support for rural broadband deployment.

As part of our shared leadership of the Administration's American Broadband Initiative, we released a Progress Report on June 25 detailing steps that Federal agencies have taken to make funding available for broadband deployment across the country. The report also describes coordination activities related to Federal broadband programs with other Federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) also has been involved in discussions with state, regional, and local government officials and industry representatives who are keenly aware of the vital role that broadband plays in supporting American families, businesses, and overall health and public safety. NTIA recently updated information about Federal broadband programs on its BroadbandUSA website that includes programs offered by the FCC and USDA under which broadband providers, local and regional governments, and others may be eligible.

The Department will continue its mission to enhance economic opportunities for all Americans, no matter where they live, as it works to keep our Nation connected. Should you have further questions, please contact Anthony Foti, Performing the Delegated Duties of the Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wilbur Ross". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Wilbur Ross