



State Connections

The broadband working group for state legislators

First Friday of Every Month

4:00 ET / 3:00 CT / 2:00 MT / 1:00 PT

WE WILL BEGIN SHORTLY!

Agenda

Please offer suggestions! (in chat or out loud)

State Connections Introduction

- Welcome & overview
- Your topic of interest?

Update on Broadband in 2025

- BEAD for infrastructure
- DEA for technology adoption
- Both at risk

Should We Take Action?

- Letter from State Legislators.



Rep. Louis Riggs
(R - MO)



Rep. Matt Pierce
(D - IN)

State Connections Introduction

State Connections Membership

- 230 members (legislators or staff)
- 44 states represented

State Legislators in U.S.

- Total legislators - 7,300+
- New legislators - 15%



Rep. Aftyn Behn
@AftynBehn

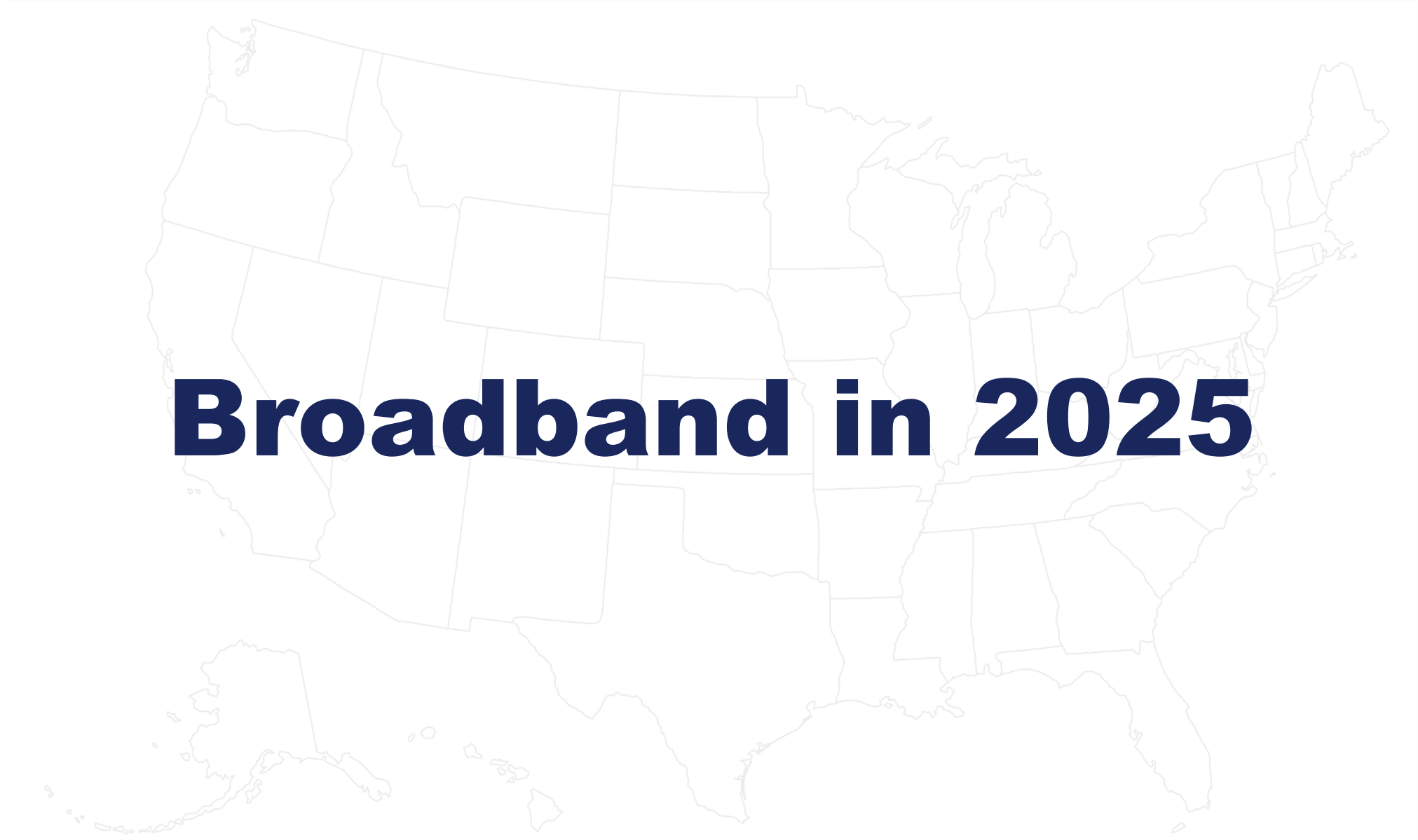


love my “state connections” legislative call with legislators from across the country who care about broadband democracy

one of the many perks of this job is meeting other people who care just as loudly about the issues I care about! 🇺🇸

4:28 PM · Sep 6, 2024 · 465 Views

We hope you will all feel this way!



Broadband in 2025

Broadband Infrastructure in 2025



1 in 4 rural Americans lack broadband

BEAD - Connecting Every Person In America

- \$42 billion.
- Rural focused, mostly.
- States currently selecting ISPs.
- Issues: slow, regulation, permitting, maps.

Early results are promising

- Competitive bidding.
- Mostly fiber + efficient mix of other tech.
- Affordable, universal, long-term.
- States ready to go.



WHAT ONE KILOWATT HOUR MEANS

TO THE FARM HOME



Technology Adoption in 2025



90% of job postings require digital skills.

Digital Equity Act - Getting The Most Out Of Broadband

- \$2.7 billion.
- Focus on vulnerable populations.
- States selecting grantees (governments, nonprofits).
- Issues: “equity,” limited funding.

Early results are promising

- Overwhelming demand.
- Diverse array of programs — ag training to scam awareness.
- States ready to go.

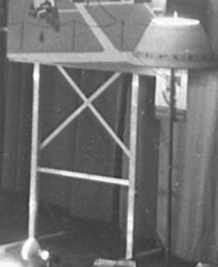


ELECTRICITY-YOUR HELP
CONVENIENT-SAFE
-ECONOMICAL

BREA

THE FARM

W
G-FAIRBANKS - MORSE
A.B.C



New Direction?

“An outrageous waste of taxpayer money.” -Elon Musk

Changes

- Increase satellite, decrease fiber.
- Remove affordability.
- Cut labor and climate.
- Remove technology adoption.

Clawbacks

- Revert funds to Treasury.

Actions

- SPEED for BEAD Act
- Dept. Commerce Action
- Admin. Roth Nomination
- Texas Pauses DEA
- WSJ: \$20b to Starlink?

Potential Consequences



“Delay broadband deployment for years.” - Sarah Morris, formerly NTIA

Expectation

- Delay state programs.
- Decrease funding for states.
- Reduce quality of broadband service.
- Save money (short term)
- Give ISPs more flexibility.

Uncertainty

- Are changes mandatory or optional?

“While I am all for improving the program, I do not want to see West Virginia wait longer than is necessary or have to redo their proposals and application.”

-Sen. Capito (R-WV)

An outline map of the United States, showing the borders of all 50 states. The map is centered on the page and serves as a background for the text.

Should We Take Action?

Letter to NTIA

Co-signed by as many state legislators as possible!

Position

- Voluntary not mandatory changes.
- States are doing good work, don't disrupt it.

Your Action

- Review and [sign letter](#).
- Circulate among colleagues.
- CC your federal delegation.



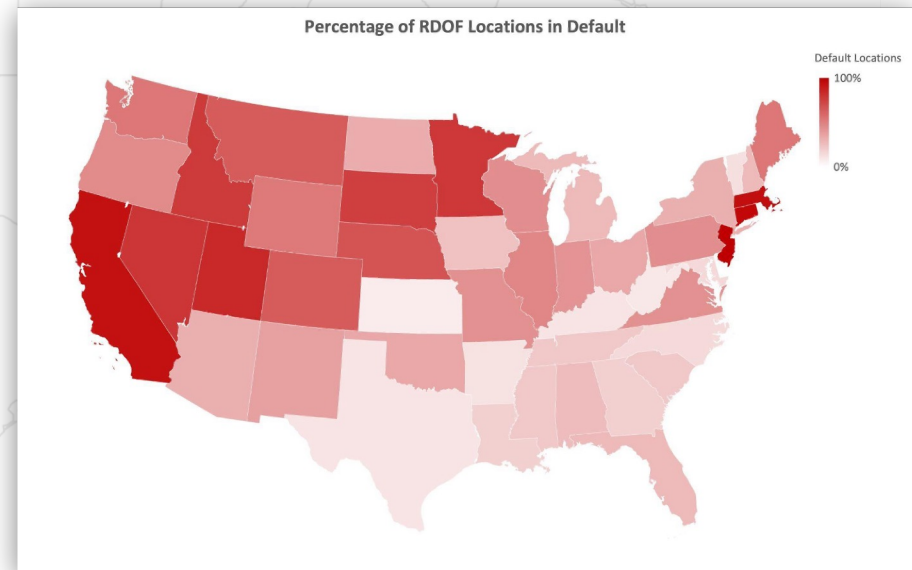
General Updates & Discussion

Discussion

- What are you working on?
- What topics should we address in the future?

Resources

- [BEAD's Groundhog Day Moment](#)
- [RDOF Defaults on Each State](#)
- [NCSL Toolkit](#)



Contact Information

A faint, light gray outline map of the United States, including the 48 contiguous states, Alaska, and Hawaii, serves as a background for the text.

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