



Long-Term Sustainability and LEO Issues

20 February 2026

Tom Reid

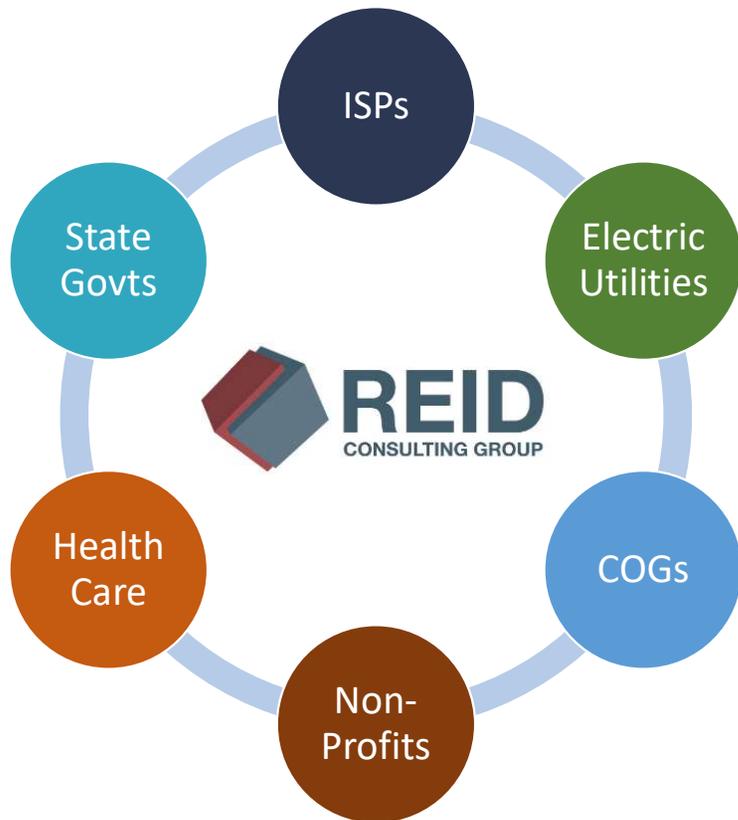
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360 View of Broadband



Founded in 2006
HQ in Appalachia – Athens, Ohio ★
Clients in 18 states
\$1.6 billion in project value
6,000 miles of fiber expansion
\$330 million in grant funding

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Level Playing Field in Rural and Urban Areas

U.S. Communications Act of 1934
[Reaffirmed in 1996]

“All people in the United States shall have access to rapid, efficient, nationwide communications service with adequate facilities at reasonable charges.”

As a Nation

- We did it with electrical service
- We did it with telephone service

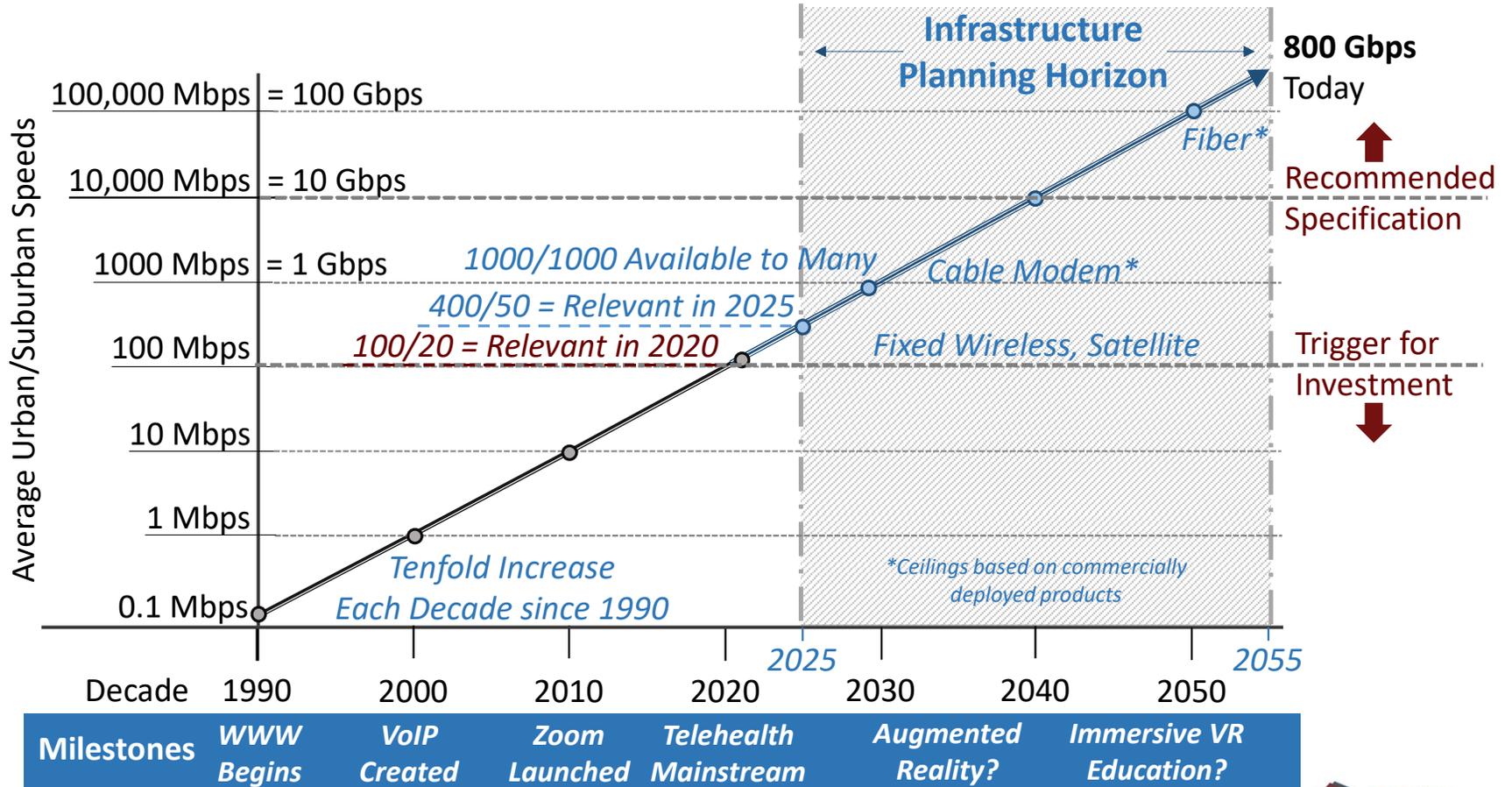


Broadband Commitment

- Comparable Capability
- Comparable Costs
- Partial success

Long-Term Perspective

“Technology neutral” but must meet the speed requirements of 2055



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We would not do this with bridges

D- Bridge Identified



Upgraded to a D+ Bridge



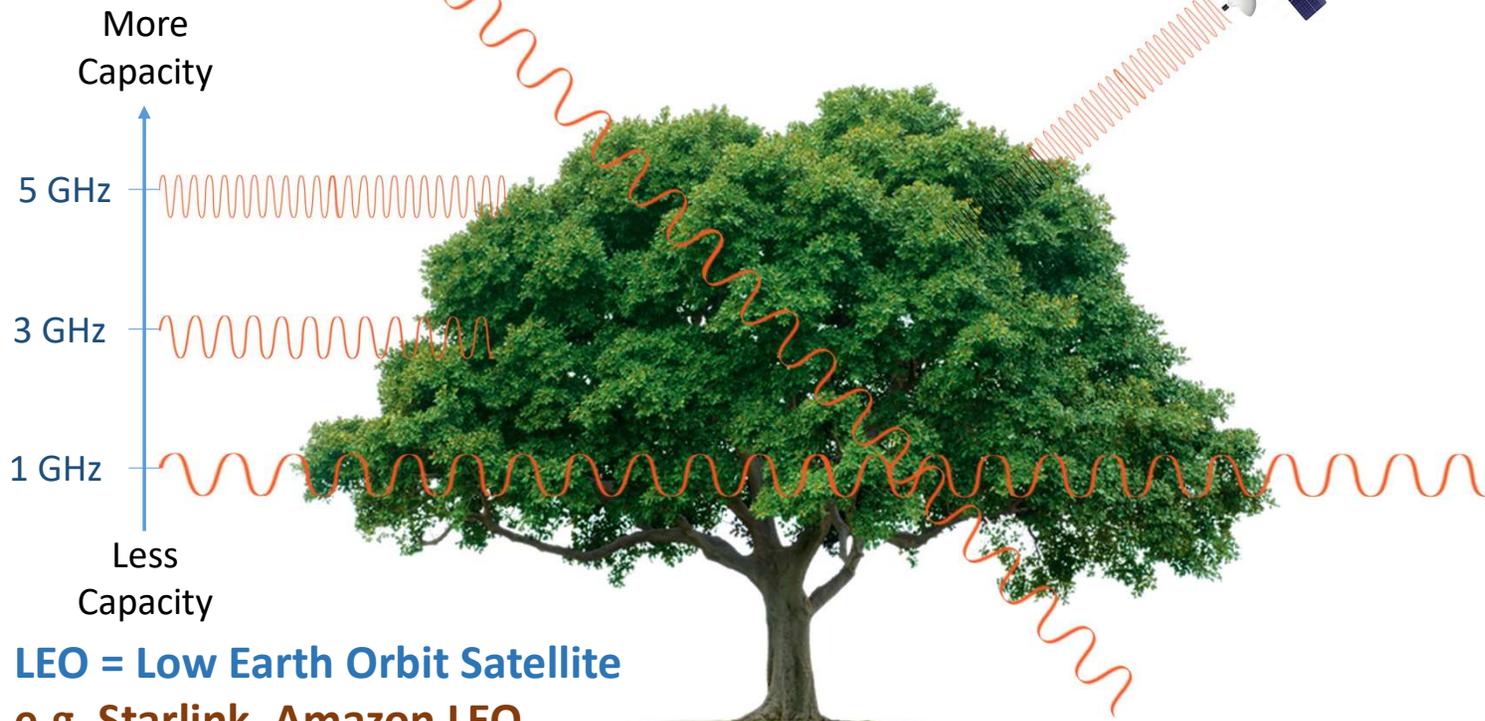
Why OK with rural broadband?

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Wireless Limitations Canopy Absorption

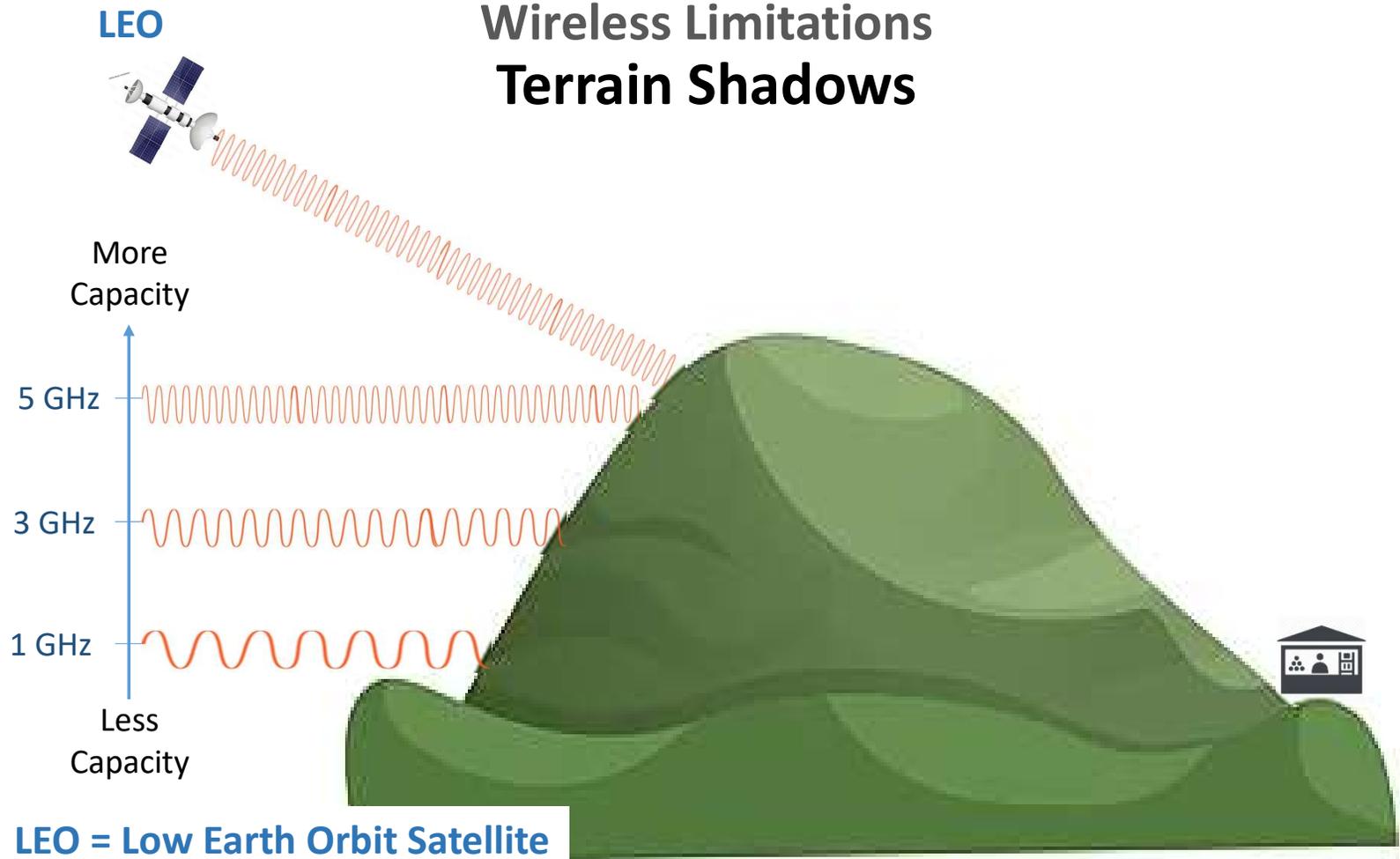
GPS
1.2 to 1.5 GHz

LEO
12 to 40 GHz



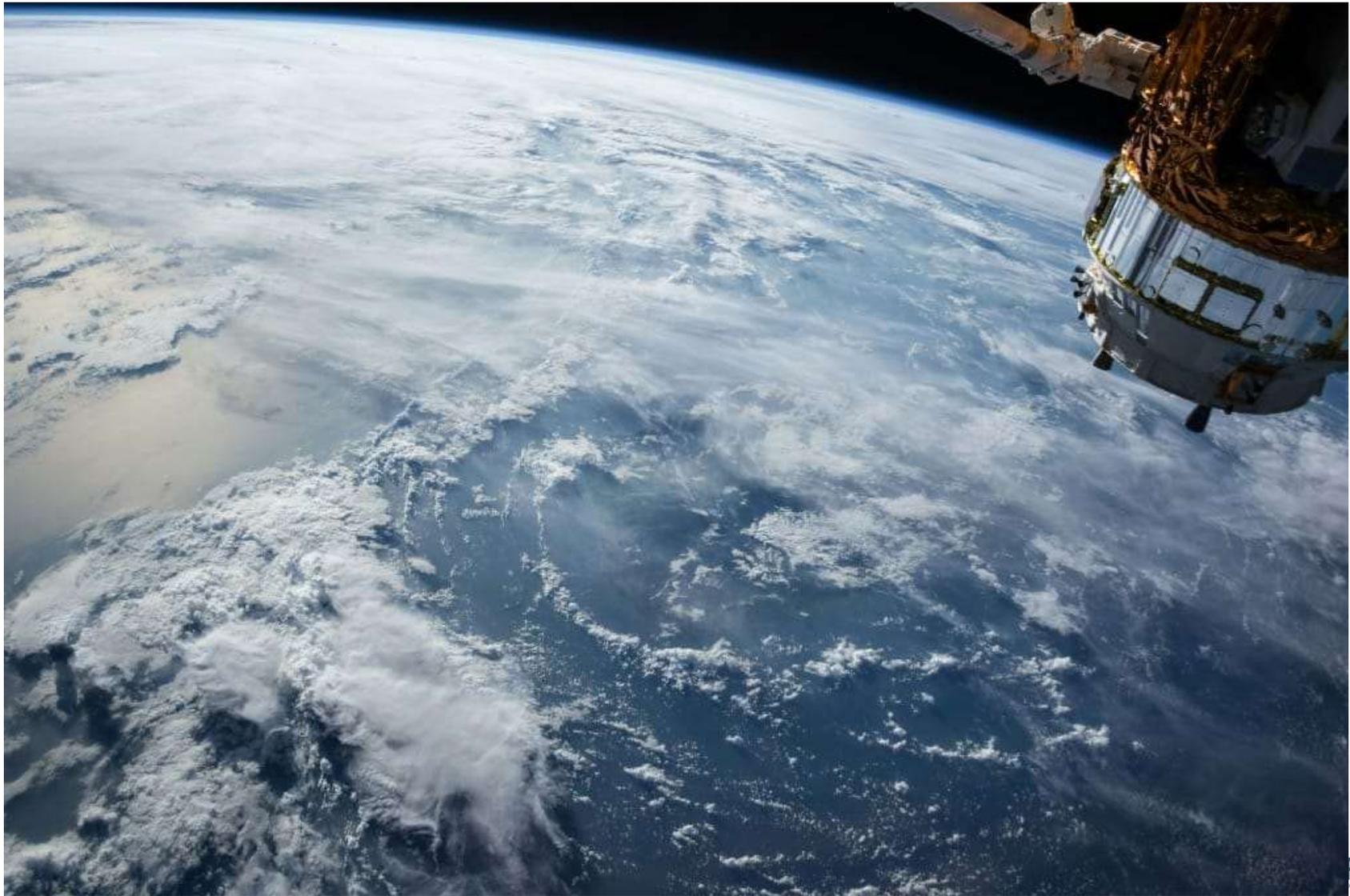
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Wireless Limitations Terrain Shadows

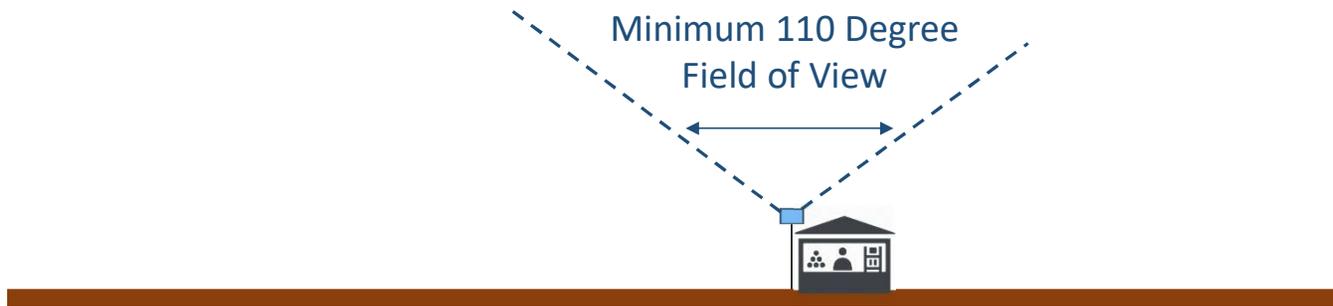


LEO = Low Earth Orbit Satellite
e.g. Starlink, Amazon LEO

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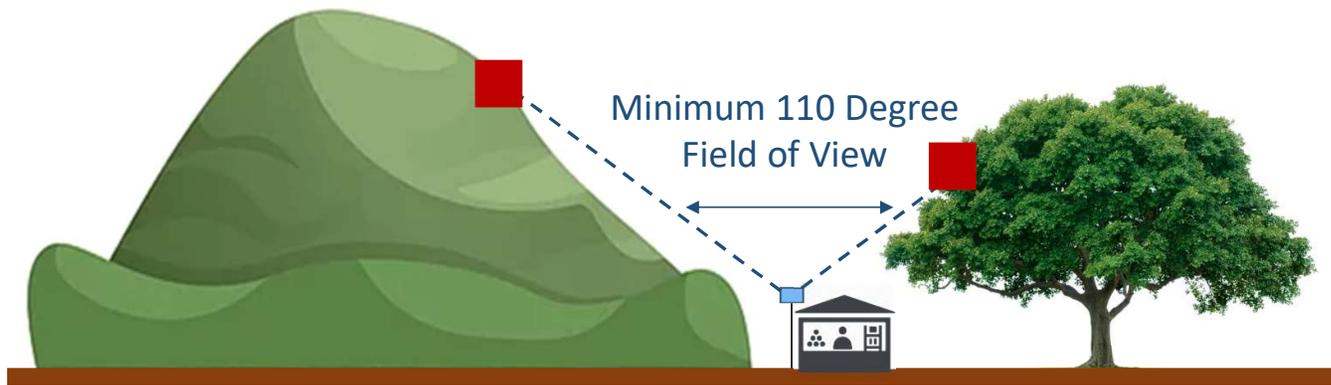


Starlink Reception Minimums



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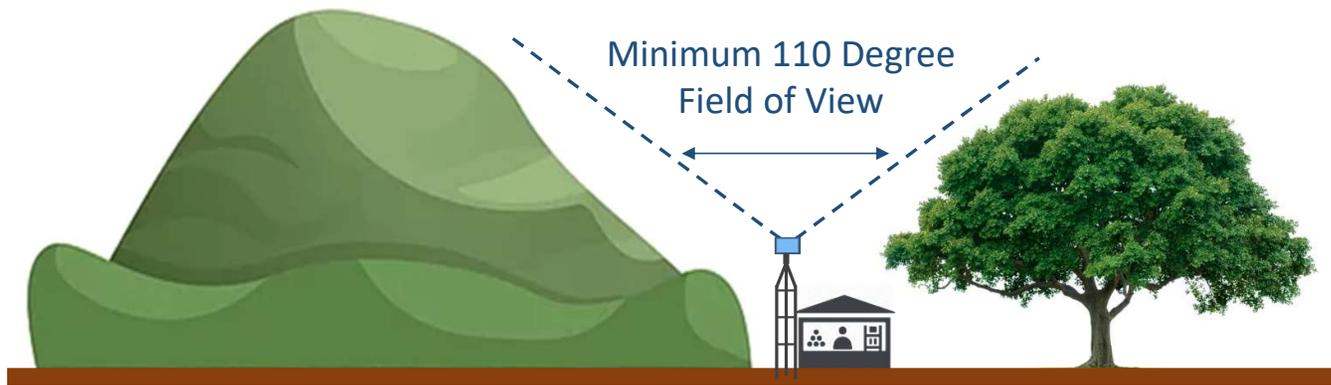
Starlink Reception Minimums



- Starlink blocked by terrain on one side and foliage on the other.
- Frequent service interruptions certain, if it works at all.

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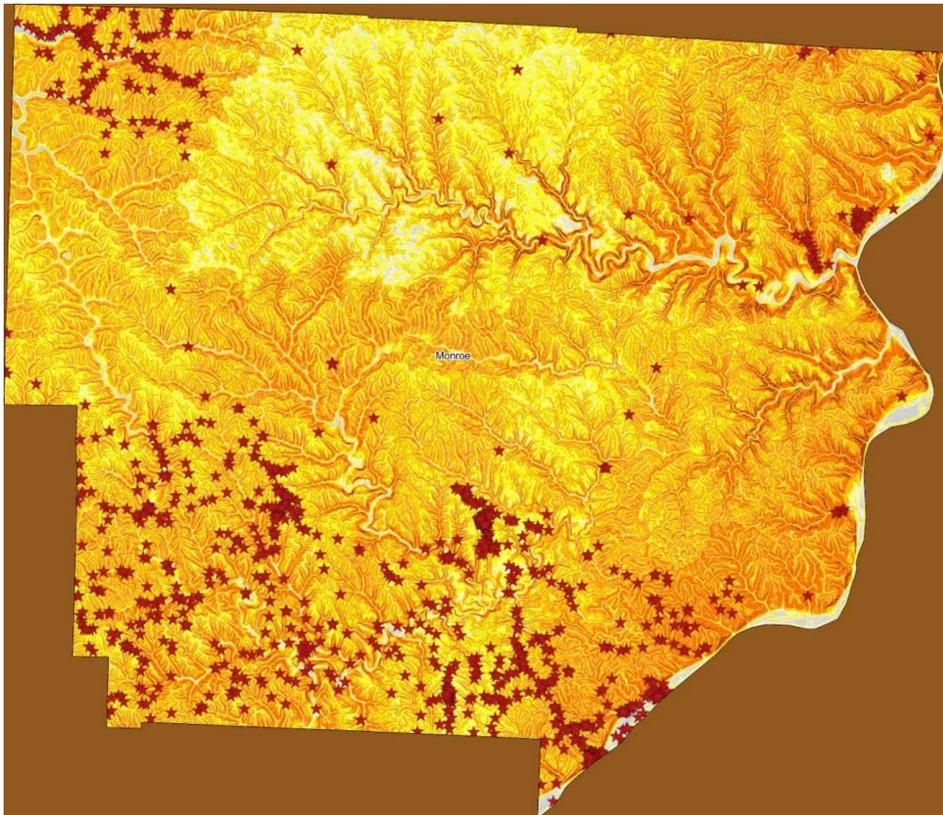
Starlink Reception Minimums



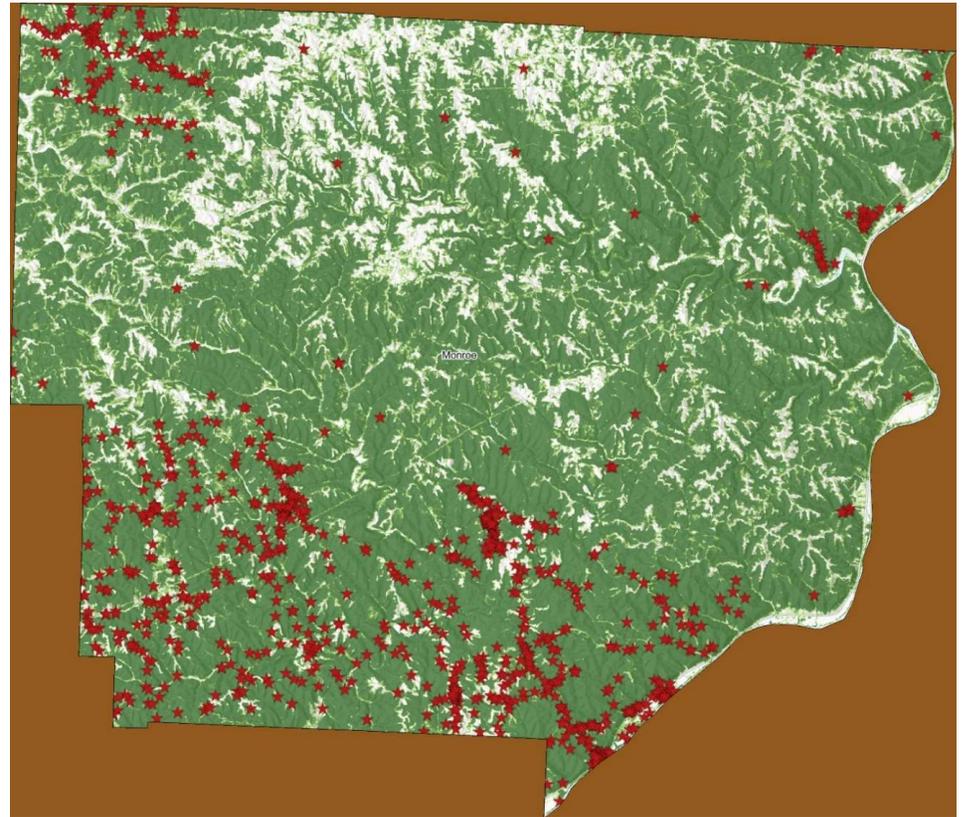
- 50' to 150' towers necessary at many locations to clear obstacles
- **Adds \$15,000 to \$50,000+ to the cost per location**, not covered under BEAD
- Technical realities also daunting for a homeowner, e.g. tower climbing, lightning strikes, etc.

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Monroe County, Ohio



★ Starlink Award



Washington Electric Cooperative serves southern Monroe County

Heavy foliage cover of Wayne National Forrest and rugged terrain will block 80+% of locations

