

An outline map of the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, serving as a background for the text.

State Connections

The broadband working group for state legislators

Third Friday of Every Month

12:00 ET / 11:00 CT / 10:00 MT / 9:00 PT

February 2026

Agenda

Recording meeting

Good News!

- Dept. Commerce committed to distribute all BEAD funds in alignment with statute ([per our letter](#))

Legislating State Broadband Standards + Fund Recovery

- [MO HB 2886](#) - increase broadband speed, technology standards
- [MO HB 3006](#) - create office to pursue non-disbursed federal funds

Rural Broadband, Satellite Internet, and BEAD

- Who will receive bad service from BEAD? Who won't receive service at all?
- SpaceX seeks BEAD exemptions.

Status Report from State Broadband Office

- 45/50 states approved, but key negotiations continue.

BEAD “Non-Deployment” Funds

\$21b of Good News!

Senate Hearing – Full BEAD allocation will be made available in alignment with statute ([per our letter](#)). Specific uses TBD. We’ll know more **March 11**.

NTIA Listening Sessions

States (2/10)

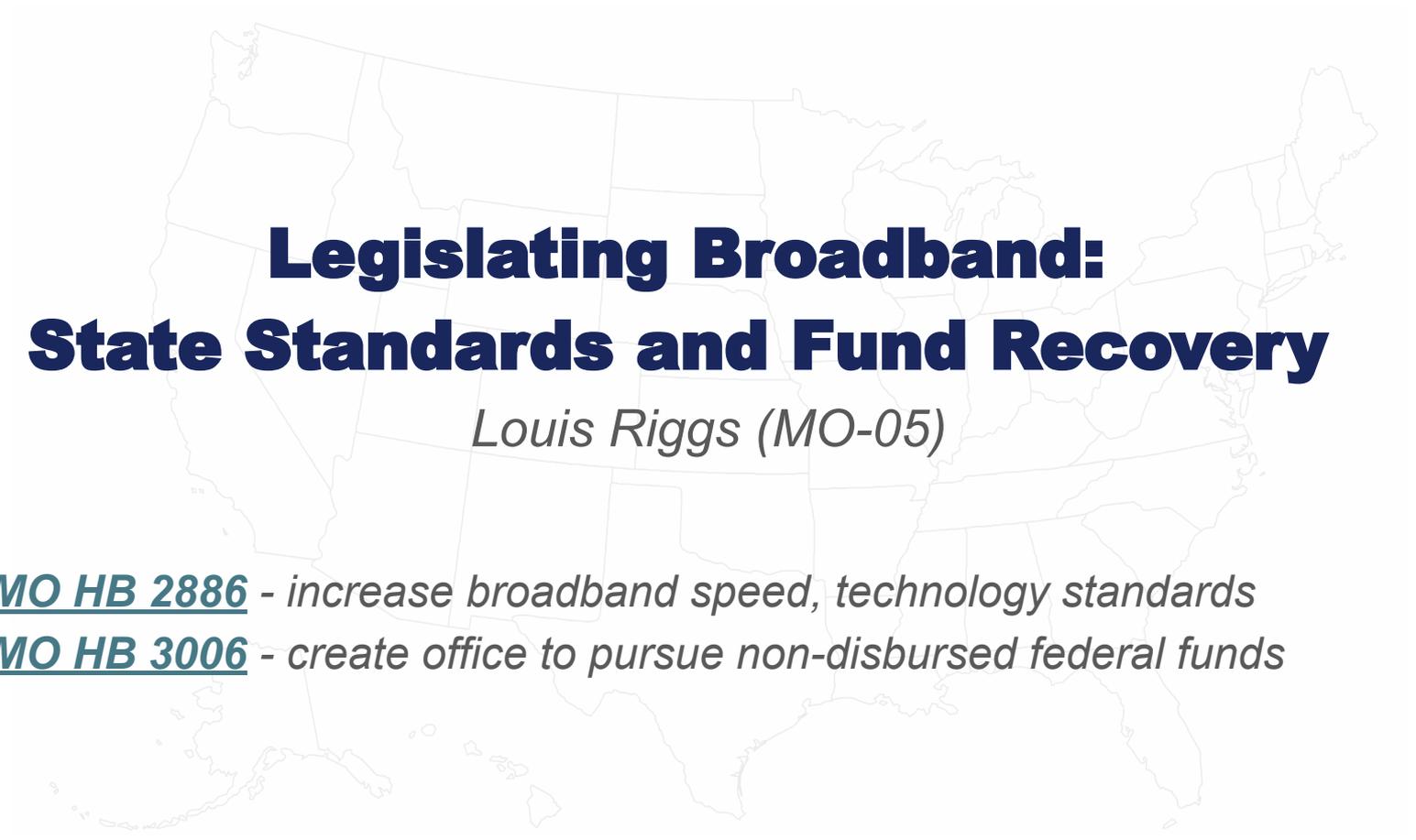
- flexibility
- workforce
- resiliency
- permitting/poles
- middle mile/AI
- administration

Public (2/11 & 2/18)

- affordability
- adoption + devices
- return to treasury
- public safety
- kids screen time
- EMF concerns

NTIA Recap

- permitting
- public safety
- kids screen time
- resiliency
- deployment



Legislating Broadband: State Standards and Fund Recovery

Louis Riggs (MO-05)

- **MO HB 2886** - *increase broadband speed, technology standards*
- **MO HB 3006** - *create office to pursue non-disbursed federal funds*

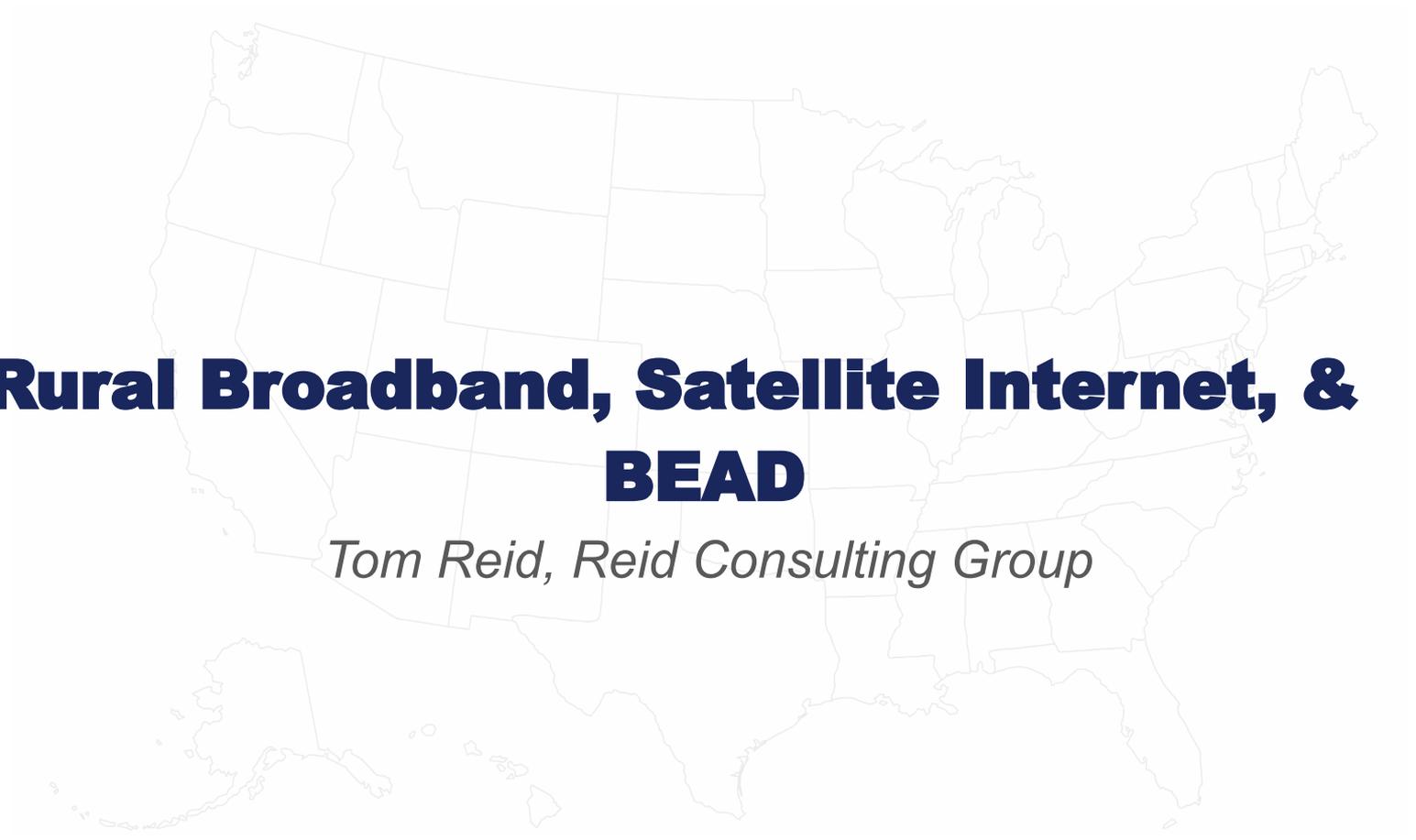
Starlink (SpaceX) Contract Rider

Requested exemptions reveal technology limitations

Starlink requested [exemption](#) from certain BEAD requirements

- *performance obligations*
- *payment schedules*
- *non-compliance penalties*
- *reporting expectations*
- *labor and insurance standards.*

NTIA encouraged states to refuse ([FAQ 18 9.4](#)), but SpaceX's request reveals satellite's limitations

An outline map of the United States, showing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The map is light gray and serves as a background for the text.

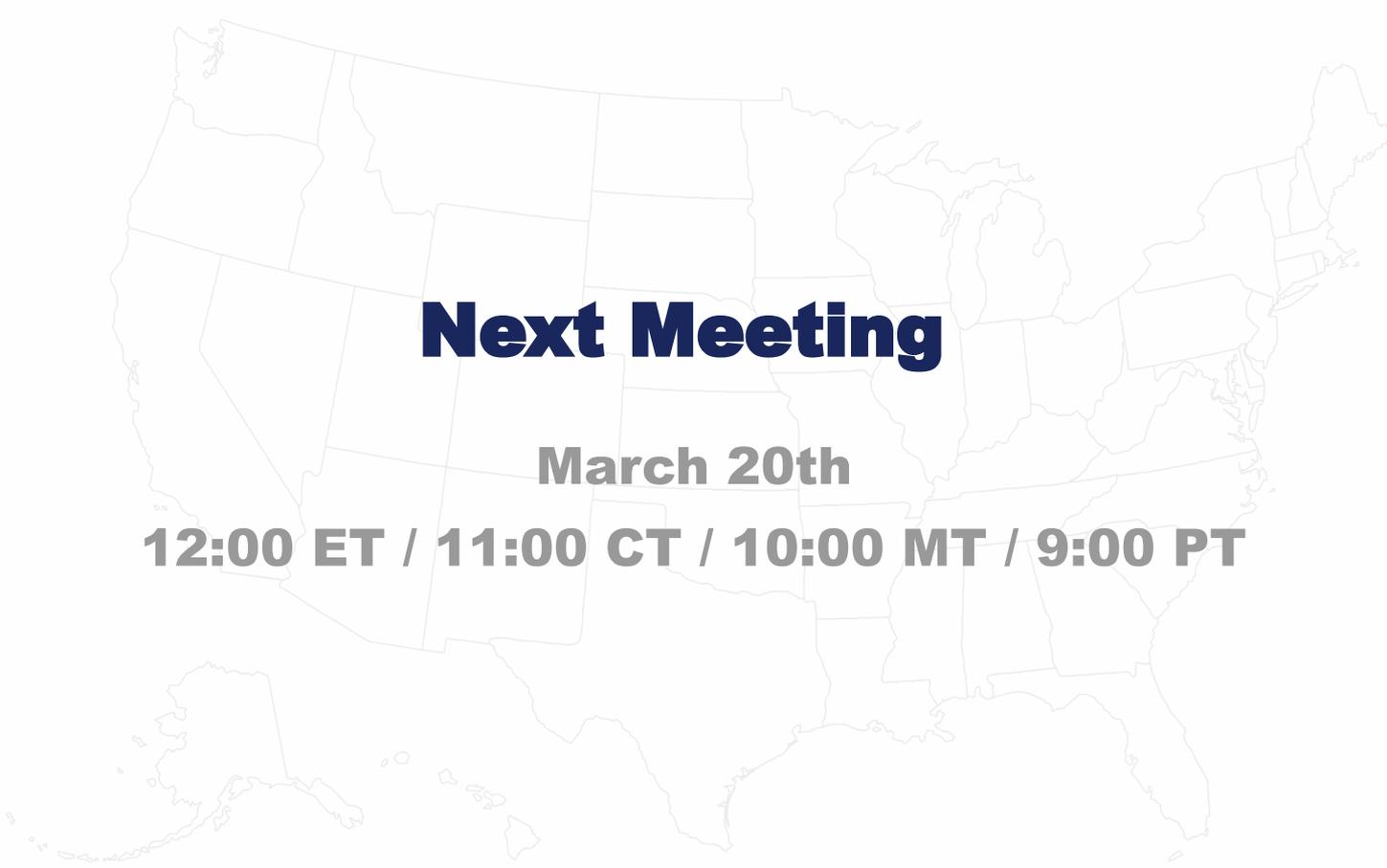
Rural Broadband, Satellite Internet, & BEAD

Tom Reid, Reid Consulting Group

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

State BEAD Update

Rebecca Dilg, Director, Utah Broadband Center

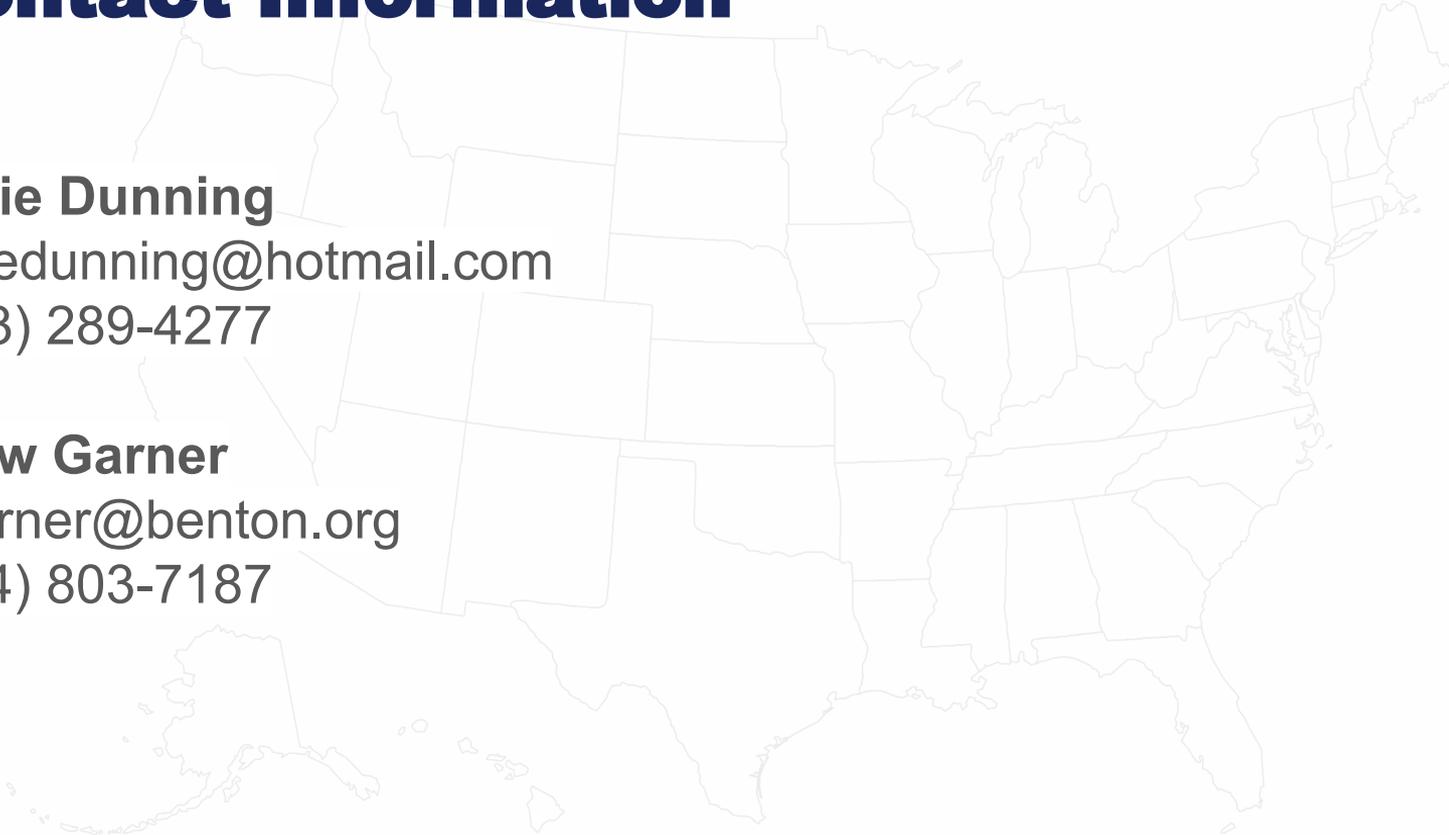
An outline map of the United States, showing state boundaries. The map is centered in the background of the text.

Next Meeting

March 20th

12:00 ET / 11:00 CT / 10:00 MT / 9:00 PT

Contact Information



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