



# 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**

Happy first day of Spring!  
🌱

*March 2026*

# Agenda

*Recording meeting*

## **Legislative Update - Rep. Louis Riggs**

- Returning defaulted funds to states
- Legislative update

## **Policy Update - Jake Varn, Pew Charitable Trusts**

- Delayed guidance on state AI Laws and BEAD Non-Deployment
- Survey of recent state broadband laws

## **Broadband Office Update - Mike Sanders, Oklahoma Broadband Office**

- Working with your Broadband Office (from a state legislator turned broadband director)
- News from State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN)
- BEAD approval activity

## **Pole Attachment Update - Gigi Sohn, Benton Institute**

- NTIA's requirements put states in conflict with federal law.

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.

# **Legislative Update**

*Rep. Louis Riggs (MO-05)*



# **Policy Update**

*Jake Varn, Pew Charitable Trusts*

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

# **Broadband Office Update**

*Mike Sanders, Oklahoma Broadband Office*



# **Pole Attachment Update**

*Gigi Sohn, Benton Institute*

An outline map of the United States, showing the 48 contiguous states and Alaska and Hawaii. The map is light gray and serves as a background for the text.

# **Next Meeting**

**April 24th**

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

# Contact Information



**Janie Dunning**

janiedunning@hotmail.com

(573) 289-4277

**Drew Garner**

dgarner@benton.org

(314) 803-7187

# Delays!

## Still awaiting clarity on AI Executive Order and BEAD Non-Deployment Funds

**AI Executive Order** – The Dept. of Commerce and Dept. of Justice missed their deadline of March 11th to announce which states will be barred from accessing BEAD non-deployment funds due to imposing “onerous” regulations on AI.

**Non-Deployment Funds** – NTIA [delayed](#) releasing guidance on allowable uses for non-deployment funding to allow the agency to review the “extraordinary level of interest and feedback” expressed over several [listening sessions](#).

- House Energy and Commerce Democrats sent a [letter](#) criticizing the delay.