

The RUS should dedicate its funding to grants only; should streamline and ameliorate its application processes; and, should recognize that rural economic development must be sustainable but that different broadband speeds may be required to spur economic development for different rural areas. Both agencies should adopt a standardized application.

Ultimately, the NTIA and the RUS must recognize that “providing access to consumers living in unserved areas” and “providing service to the highest proportion of rural residents” are the keys to economic health, development and sustainability of rural America. Applications that address these goals and maximize broadband to rural America should be highly valued.

Respectfully submitted,



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