



March 4, 2026

The Honorable Arielle Roth
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
for Communications and Information
Administrator
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Roth:

Competitive Carriers Association (CCA)¹ takes this opportunity to expand on the input it provided at the February 11, 2026, Listening Session on the Use of BEAD Funds Saved Through the Trump Administration's Benefit of the Bargain Reforms. CCA encourages NTIA to permit use of the remaining funds for wireless and mobility-related projects to complement approved BEAD fixed deployments and help realize a more fully connected rural America.

Allowing states to use remaining BEAD funds for wireless and mobile projects would support additional on-the-ground infrastructure deployments that directly advance the primary objectives of the BEAD program. Building upon other BEAD investments, including by leveraging middle-mile and fiber deployments, NTIA has an opportunity to help states significantly reduce dead zones in rural America to complete the connectivity needs for communities and areas still lacking fixed and mobile access. This can help fully connect Americans not only at home but everywhere they live, work, and travel.

Facilitating terrestrial wireless and mobile projects would help advance NTIA's priority of universal connectivity and expand on the technology-neutral and flexible approach that NTIA, under the guidance of President Trump's administration and in line with Congress's intent in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, has championed. In fact, the legislation specifically calls for a priority broadband project to include supporting the deployment of 5G and successor wireless technologies. Funding mobility projects can help close a key gap in the BEAD program – connecting customers where fixed services alone cannot. In addition to advanced mobile coverage and connectivity, terrestrial wireless providers are also providing Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) services

¹ CCA is the nation's leading association for competitive providers and stakeholders across the United States. Members range from small, rural carriers serving fewer than 5,000 customers to regional and national providers serving millions of customers, as well as vendors and suppliers that provide products and services throughout the communications ecosystem.

to their customers, facilitating competition and connectivity nationwide. Nearly all CCA mobile providers offer fixed wireless services, a technology “two-fer” providing seamless, continued connectivity in homes and businesses as well as when consumers are in transit and moving about their lives. Federal support for this technology guarantees a successful return on investment – a further Benefit of the Bargain.

Additional wireless and mobile projects can be force-multipliers for other administration priorities for the unused BEAD funds. For example, many Listening Session stakeholders encouraged use of remaining funds for advancing public safety communications in the United States, e.g., by helping to deploy the infrastructure needed for 988 and Next-Generation 911. An estimated 240 million calls are currently placed annually to 911, with National Emergency Number Association leadership noting that close to 90% of 911 calls in the United States originating from mobile phones. 988 contacts are often conducted via text or chat, with over 6.3 million contacts reaching out annually, often via mobile devices. Facilitating additional mobile coverage in the United States complements updates to 911 and 988 infrastructure and can help improve access and save American lives, especially in rural America. Further, newer, modern wireless infrastructure is better protected against cyberattacks, a known direct threat to emergency readiness.

Investing remaining BEAD non-deployment funds in support of wireless projects would also advance other critical Trump administration priorities such as cementing the nation’s leadership in Artificial Intelligence (AI). Expanded wireless network infrastructure, especially for 5G and future evolutions, provides high-speed and low latency connections that directly enable AI-driven applications such as autonomous vehicles, manufacturing, telehealth, smart cities and infrastructure, precision agriculture, and more. These projects will be in high demand in rural areas, enabling significant economic development opportunities for rural Americans, and many can only be enabled through advanced mobile service.

CCA appreciates NTIA’s commitment to connecting all Americans and for the thoughtful consideration of allowing states to use remaining BEAD funds for wireless and mobile projects.

Sincerely,



Tim Donovan
President & CEO
Competitive Carriers Association