



BROADBAND  
WITHOUT  
BOUNDARIES

## ***Making BEAD Work: Change 13 Words – SAVE \$10 Billion***

### **Text/Policy Changes**

- Removing just 13 words in the BEAD NOFO is all it would take.
- Changed Definition:  
The term “Reliable Broadband Service” means broadband service that is accessible to a location via:
  - fiber-optic technology
  - cable modem/hybrid fiber-coaxial (HFC) technology
  - digital subscriber line (DSL) technology
  - terrestrial fixed wireless technology ~~utilizing entirely licensed spectrum or using a hybrid of licensed and unlicensed spectrum.~~
- Technology which meets IIA’s technical and other standards would be deemed “Reliable.”
- All providers of “Reliable Broadband Service” would be able to access the BEAD process.
- Areas served by “Reliable Broadband Service” would be off limits to BEAD overbuilding – protecting billions of private equity and federally funded dollars from being wasted.
- Added benefit – BEAD’s “Extreme High-Cost Per Location Threshold” would no longer be needed at all.

### **Removing 13 Words Saves Billions, Gets All Online Quicker**

- Avoids wasteful overbuilding of existing unlicensed networks, **saving at least \$10 billion in BEAD funds.**
- Allows states to take years off lengthy fiber buildout timelines, **boosting consumer welfare by at least \$20 billion for each saved year.**
- Provides states with the flexibility and choice to use the right technology for each location.
- Supports local small businesses and providers who already serve their communities.

### **WISPs Can Get BEAD Over the Finish Line**

- The U.S. fixed wireless (FW) broadband provider industry delivers reliable broadband to nearly 10 million Americans in rural, under-resourced and Tribal areas of the country.
- WISPs use all technology options to serve those markets, including optical fiber and FW.
- Unlicensed FW is particularly useful because reliable high-speed broadband can be deployed at far lower cost and more quickly than other alternatives.
- Unlicensed FW enables reliable broadband, is endorsed by the FCC for its resilience, and employed by state and city governments across the country to bridge their digital divides.

BEAD will only succeed if all technologies are meaningfully available to States. The most effective, expedient and least disruptive way to achieve this is by removing 13 words in the BEAD NOFO, which means “Reliable Broadband” applies to all viable broadband technology, allowing billions in savings and consumer welfare gains.