

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 7, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

I write today to express my deep disappointment and disapproval regarding the Commerce Department's unilateral changes to the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) guidance. These changes only serve to undercut states like Delaware who have followed and completed the already established program rules to the letter.

As you announced on June 6, 2025, the new "technology-neutral" guidance prevents final approvals in multiple states, including Delaware's, and mandates additional and unnecessary red tape, in the form of a rushed additional 90-day bidding round that disrupts many states already finalized deployment plans.

Delaware has finalized its initial and final proposals under the guidance originally provided, including strong industry, community, civil society, and local government support for prioritizing high-speed, future-proof fiber infrastructure to close the digital divide. Our state is ready to begin implementation and only needs sign off from the National Institute of Standards & Technology to start connecting Delawareans with high-speed internet. Due to the abrupt change in the BEAD program, Delaware's broadband deployment will be delayed. Businesses, students, and rural residents will be forced to rely on other broadband sources while this buildout is delayed. This unnecessary policy shift is unfair and counterproductive to our shared goal of creating timely, equitable broadband access.

Delawareans deserve to know why their state's progress has been put on hold. This decision not only stalls our broadband buildout but also erodes public confidence in the BEAD program and in federally guided partnerships.

At a minimum, Delaware should not be forced to reorder its timeline or rebid work already completed to standard because of additional bureaucratic red tape. I strongly urge you to consider issuance of clearer, more stable guidance that ensures states can plan and proceed without fear of mid-course reversals.

I remain committed to working with you to ensure that federal broadband funds are deployed efficiently for all, but Delaware should not be penalized for doing things right the first time. I will be personally following up with you on this matter.

Sincerely,



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Lisa Blunt Rochester  
United States Senator