
From: Joe Furman <Joe.Furman@watgov.org>
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Subject: comment broadband

I understand the Interagency Broadband Opportunity Council is seeking comments on what the federal government can do to promote broadband deployment, etc. I have one primary concern. It's no secret that many rural areas are being left behind in many ways, including broadband availability. I'm sure I don't have to describe why it is an important issue, so I'll skip that and go directly to my concern. Large providers such as AT&T have made it clear they will not invest in rural areas because the ROI is not enough. Coverage is actually going to decrease as a result. I consider this to be very similar to when the government through the REA caused electricity to be provided in previously unserved and underserved areas. I believe the federal government should at the least, offer incentives to broadband providers to serve rural areas, and at the most to force them to do so. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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