

From: [Don Albrecht](#)
To: [BOCrfc2015](#)
Subject: Broadband Opportunity Council
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 10:54:34 AM
Attachments: [Broadband.docx](#)

My comments are attached.

Thanks,

Don Albrecht
Director, Western Rural Development Center

June 10, 2015

Mr. Larry Strickling, Administrator
National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Ms. Lisa Mensah, Under Secretary for Rural Development
United States Department of Agriculture

“Expanding Broadband Deployment and Adoption by
Addressing Regulatory Barriers and Encouraging Investment and Training”

Comments from Don Albrecht, Director, Western Rural Development Center

To the Co-Chairs of the Broadband Opportunity Council:

Broadband is without a doubt a critical 21st century infrastructure. As more and more services migrate to online platforms, not having access to or not using the technology, places individuals farther behind in this digital age. This digital divide is a real threat to both community and economic development. To meet the needs of our citizens and remain competitive in the networked, global economy, the US must build upon recent public, private and non-profit investments by continuing to:

1. Leverage and Expand Broadband Infrastructure Deployment
2. Invest in Broadband Adoption and Use Programs
3. Support Research to Inform Broadband Program and Policy Decisions

The WRDC has been involved in research showing that broadband is critical in economic development efforts and in outreach programs to help individuals and communities use broadband more effectively. Thank you for your consideration.

Don Albrecht
Director, Western Rural Development Center