

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Proposed BEAD Alternative Broadband Technology Guidance. While much of the guidance seems well reasoned and through there are two items that I would like to address.

When implementing a Low Earth Orbit internet platform the end user has traditionally been required to spend \$600+taxes to acquire the dish from an ISP. I believe that this initial investment is out of line with what would be expected of the industry when using other technologies. In my personal experience a cost closer to \$100 would be in line with the standard installation fee for a traditional wireline provider. Additionally, when connecting to a traditional wireline service an installer for the ISP comes to a customer's house to complete the final connection if one did not exist prior to a user requesting service. My experiences with Starlink, the only significant market participant today, is that the installation is left to the homeowner. This is out of line with the rest of the market.

The second item that I would like to note is even if the full cost of the consumer premise equipment is bore by the consumer at the time of service installation, the rapid iteration of the technologies would lead to a situation where the user may be encouraged or forced to upgrade at their cost during the life of the BEAD program. This happens on traditional wireline services as well, I have had the occasion to upgrade my cable modem from a DOCSIS 2 to a DOCSIS 3 device. This was simple as I could just unplug the old one and plug in the new one. I would encourage the NTIA to adopt a position where any equipment upgrades that are needed for the good function of the network to be borne by the network and not by the customer.

Thank you for your time and attention today.

W. Nick Pappin
Assistant Director
DGSS – Digital Initiatives
Washington State University Extension