

From: Greg Austin [gregaustin@live.com]
Sent: 8/28/2024, 12:17 AM
To: bead@ntia.gov
Subject: Reliable Broadband Consideration

To the National Telecommunications and Information Administration,
The urgency to bridge the digital divide has never been greater, and the solution might be overhead—literally. Starlink, operated by SpaceX, presents a compelling case for immediate, cost-effective, and efficient broadband deployment in underserved and remote areas:

Cost Savings: Traditional broadband infrastructure requires significant investment in physical cables and infrastructure. Starlink's satellite-based system circumvents these high costs, offering a solution that could reduce the financial burden on the BEAD program's budget while maximizing coverage.

Speed to Delivery: Starlink's ability to provide high-speed internet access rapidly stands unmatched. Where terrestrial broadband might take years to deploy due to logistical and geographical challenges, Starlink can be operational in a matter of days, ensuring that funds translate quickly into tangible benefits for communities.

Scalability and Coverage: With plans for thousands of satellites, Starlink can scale to cover vast areas, ensuring that even the most remote locations are not left behind. This scalability ensures that as the network grows, so does the potential for universal coverage without additional infrastructure costs.

Public Sentiment: Recent testimonials reflect a growing recognition of Starlink's potential. Users highlight its effectiveness in rural connectivity, suggesting a strong public support for its integration into national broadband strategies.

Given these advantages, we implore the NTIA to actively consider and integrate Starlink into the BEAD program. This move could significantly accelerate the goal of achieving high-speed internet access across the U.S., ensuring economic, educational, and social benefits reach every corner of the nation without the traditional delays and costs associated with broadband expansion.

Let's leverage this technology to not only meet but exceed our connectivity goals, ensuring no American is left offline.

Thanks for your consideration.
G. Austin