[DATE]

Dear Governor [name],

I am writing today to express support for the $42 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program at the National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) and to request that you advocate for the program to move forward without delay.

Rural electric cooperatives share the goal of wanting to see [state] connected with reliable high-speed internet service and are well-versed in the challenges of serving America’s rural communities. For nearly 100 years, rural electric cooperatives have brought reliable, affordable electric service to some of the hardest to reach and highest cost areas of the country, and today, many electric cooperatives- including [name of co-op or broadband subsidiary]- are stepping up to bring high-speed broadband service to those same areas.

As the BEAD program has taken shape, extraneous provisions such as requirements around climate resiliency, price regulation, labor considerations, NEPA & NHPA permitting, and open access have increased projected costs and imposed burdensome conditions on participation. This has made the program more challenging for small, rural providers.

As the Trump Administration undertakes a review the BEAD program, [name of co-op or broadband subsidiary] respectfully requests that you advocate for NTIA to waive or eliminate burdensome regulatory provisions that are not central to the goal of connecting rural Americans, but otherwise allow states to implement their BEAD proposals without delay. States have spent three years working with providers and local stakeholders to identify gaps in service and understand the unique barriers to connectivity within their borders. This locally driven approach will guarantee that BEAD funds are spent quickly and efficiently while maximizing network scalability and longevity in rural communities.

The $42.5 billion BEAD program represents a once in a generation opportunity for rural families and communities to finally receive a reliable high-speed internet connection. [name of co-op or broadband subsidiary] agrees that if successfully executed, BEAD can empower rural communities in [state] to enhance education, bolster healthcare, and succeed in the growing digital economy. We appreciate the work that you and the [state] broadband office have done to thoughtfully consider the connectivity needs across the state and encourage you to advocate for the BEAD program to move forward without delay.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for the work you have already done to support broadband internet service for [your state].

Sincerely,

[NAME]

Cc. [state broadband office]