



April 13, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: H.R. 2289, the American Broadband Deployment Act

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing the stakeholders who build, own, manage, and enable the communications networks millions of Americans rely on every day, we urge you to bring H.R. 2289, the American Broadband Deployment Act of 2025 (“ABDA”), to the floor without delay. Broadband underpins our society and economic growth, and its importance is only rising as Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) becomes embedded in daily life. Congress made a historic down payment on universal connectivity with the \$42 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (“BEAD”) program, which is now moving into implementation. But both BEAD and America’s broader leadership in AI will fall short if today’s permitting barriers remain. ABDA would help remove those barriers by establishing a nationwide, predictable, and proportionate permitting framework to accelerate deployment, close the digital divide, and bring connected tools to every community.

Broadband access is essential to full participation in the modern economy, and there is clear bipartisan agreement on that point. From farmers using connected tools to boost yields, to municipalities modernizing services to improve accessibility and strengthen public safety, connectivity benefits us all. Yet universal connectivity will remain out of reach without permitting reform—a challenge that has spanned administrations and can blunt the impact of federal and private investment. As NTIA Administrator Arielle Roth warned, “[p]ermitting obstacles are another major factor that will determine whether BEAD projects succeed or fail.”¹ These barriers are not new—over a year prior, then-NTIA Administrator Alan Davidson told the Communications and Technology Subcommittee, “[P]ermitting is something we’ve heard a lot about, we’re doing a ton at the federal level, [and] the local level is really important.”² While NTIA has taken important steps to streamline BEAD-funded projects, this targeted

¹ *Remarks of Assistant Secretary Arielle Roth at the Hudson Institute* (Oct. 28, 2025), <https://www.ntia.gov/speech/testimony/2025/remarks-assistant-secretary-arielle-roth-hudson-institute>.

² *The Fiscal Year 2025 National Telecommunications and Information Administration Budget: Hearing Before the H. Subcommittee on Communications and Technology*, 118th Cong. (May 15, 2024), <https://energycommerce.house.gov/events/communications-and-technology-subcommittee-hearing-the-fiscal->

streamlining does not solve the broader problem alone. Congress can by enacting ABDA and clearing avoidable bottlenecks for both federally supported builds and ongoing private investment.

The high costs and delays stemming from inefficient permitting processes go beyond limiting the reach of these critical networks, they also raise costs for consumers. The externalities from these permitting barriers limit the ability of new entrants to enter underserved markets and spur competition to drive down costs. Further, every dollar of capital activity that is sunk into the permitting process is money that cannot be invested in more efficient and modern networking equipment—discouraging the kinds of consistent investment that has enabled our current robust and competitive broadband ecosystem.³

Permitting reform is also urgent because it directly supports America’s position in the global AI race. Ubiquitous, high-speed broadband, both at home and on the move, is foundational to AI adoption, since connectivity is what allows consumers and businesses to use these tools effectively. As FCC Commissioner Trusty observed, “AI cannot function without connectivity. And, Americans cannot benefit from AI without access to connectivity.”⁴ ABDA would help preserve and extend the FCC’s deployment-enabling reforms by establishing a consistent, nationwide permitting framework.

A core feature of ABDA is that it codifies the FCC’s deployment-streamlining orders and interpretations developed over the past two decades. Adopted under both Republican and Democratic administrations, these rules respect the vital role of state and local governments in protecting community character, aesthetics, and safety while ensuring infrastructure can be deployed on reasonable timelines. The FCC frameworks ABDA would codify have helped deliver the world-class connectivity most Americans enjoy today. Clear rules of the road, such as streamlined review for deployments on existing infrastructure and firm shot clocks for application decisions, are essential to a connected future. ABDA would also help preserve equitable access to rights-of-way for modern wireline and wireless infrastructure, including fiber, cable, small cells, and associated power transmission, which deliver broadband and other services,

[year-2025-national-telecommunications-and-information-administration-budget](#) (statement by Alan Davidson, NTIA Administrator).

³ See, e.g., *New Report Shows Broadband Prices Fell as Speeds Climbed*, NCTA (March 3, 2026), <https://www.ncta.com/news/new-report-shows-broadband-prices-fell-speeds-climbed> (highlighting an analysis of FCC data demonstrating that year over year overall broadband prices have declined by approximately 8%); USTelecom, *2025 Broadband Pricing Index* (Nov. 19, 2025), <https://ustelecom.org/research/2025-bpi/> (finding that broadband prices have declined by over 40% while overall consumer prices raised by 35% over the same time period); CTIA, *2025 Annual Survey Highlights* (Sept. 8, 2025), <https://www.ctia.org/news/2025-annual-survey-highlights> (demonstrating that wireless subscription and device costs have continued to decline despite consistently rising demand).

⁴ *Remarks of FCC Commissioner Olivia Trusty National Urban League Empowerment Summit* (March 18, 2026), <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-419803A1.pdf>. See also WIA, *The Wireless Pulse of American Life and the New Frontier of AI* (March 2026), https://wia.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/WIA_NewFrontier_of_AI_March_2026.pdf (finding that AI services already account for over 4% of U.S. wireless network traffic, accounting for approximately \$3 billion of wireless network operational expenses and capital expenditure).

including AI. Congress should make this predictable, proportionate, and transparent permitting process consistently available nationwide.

The House has already shown bipartisan momentum to improve the communications permitting landscape. This year, H.R. 5419, the Enhancing Administrative Reviews for Broadband Deployment Act and H.R. 1665, the DIGITAL Applications Act, advanced by voice vote. Efforts to speed deployment on federal lands are welcome, but Americans need relief from unnecessary red tape nationwide. ABDA is the next step to streamline applications, accelerate network upgrades and expansion, and help lower costs for consumers.

The members of our organizations invest continuously to expand and improve high-quality broadband networks for every American. We ask Congress to match that commitment by advancing and enacting the American Broadband Deployment Act. Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing work to expand economic opportunity in the 21st century. We stand ready to support you and your staff as ABDA moves forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Competitive Carriers Association

ConnectAI

CTIA

Fiber Broadband Association

INCOMPAS – The Competitive Communications and AI Infrastructure Association

NATE: The Communications Infrastructure Contractors Association

NCTA – The Internet & Television Association

NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association

Rural Wireless Association

USTelecom – The Broadband Association

Wireless Infrastructure Association (WIA)

WISPA – Broadband Without Boundaries

Cc:

Hon. Brett Guthrie, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Hon. Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Hon. Richard Hudson, Chair, House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

Hon. Doris Matsui, Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

Hon. Earl “Buddy” Carter (GA-1), Bill Sponsor, H.R. 2289, American Broadband Deployment Act of 2025