



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRWOMAN

April 15, 2022

The Honorable Deb Fischer
United States Senate
454 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Fischer:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to implement the Broadband Deployment Locations Map, as established in Section 60105 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Broadband service is now essential for full participation in modern civic and commercial life. So many activities, including school, work, and healthcare, rely on these connections. Moreover, the pandemic has brought into sharp focus the work we have to do to ensure that everyone, everywhere in the United States has access to high-speed service. The FCC is committed to developing the Broadband Deployment Locations Map as required under Section 60105 and integrating it with the data collected through our expanded Broadband Data Collection process developed pursuant to the Broadband DATA Act.

As Congress recognized in requiring the creation of the Broadband Deployment Locations Map, it is essential that federal resources for broadband deployment are allocated in a way that maximizes the impact of federal funding for broadband deployment. When coupled with the availability data collected through the Broadband Data Collection, the Broadband Deployment Locations Map will enable federal agencies to more precisely target their policymaking efforts and resources to support high-speed service to those areas where assistance is needed most.

The FCC promptly began efforts to implement the Broadband Deployment Locations Map, following the enactment of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. To this end, on February 14, 2022, the FCC executed a contract modification with the developer of the IT systems with responsibility for the Broadband Data Collection in order to configure, develop, and deploy the additional functionality needed to implement the Broadband Deployment Locations Map. Relying on the same contractor to develop both systems ensures efficiencies of scale that will help expedite deployment of this additional functionality. This approach also ensures that the broadband availability data forming the basis of the Broadband Data Collection maps that are being developed in accord with the Broadband DATA Act, will be fully integrated into the Broadband Deployment Locations Map, as required by Section 60105 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. I am pleased to report that work on the design and development of the system that will collect and process this deployment data from the affected federal agencies and render that data into a public-facing map is moving forward on schedule. As announced in a Public Notice on February 22, 2022, the system for accepting availability data

from internet service providers will be open and available to providers to populate with their data in June.

The FCC has also engaged in extensive coordination with other federal agencies as we determine the requirements for and plan the implementation of this effort. In fact, this work was underway even before passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. On June 25, 2021, the FCC, National Telecommunications and Infrastructure Administration at the Department of Commerce, and Rural Utilities Service at the Department of Agriculture signed an interagency Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate sharing of information about broadband infrastructure programs. Since passage of the law, this work has expanded. For instance, we are collaborating with NTIA on the process for determining the types of data that agencies will provide to fulfill the requirements of Section 60105. As a part of this effort, we have sought to align, to the greatest extent possible, the requirements of the Broadband Deployment Locations Map with the requirements of NTIA's programs to track federal investments in broadband deployment pursuant to the ACCESS BROADBAND Act, enacted in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. By aligning these requirements, we are ensuring that, consistent with Section 60105, the requirements of the Broadband Deployment Locations Map do not unnecessarily duplicate work already completed by NTIA.

This kind of work we have done with NTIA has been a model for our outreach and efforts to coordinate with other federal agencies. We are doing so in order to understand the nature and specific characteristics of the data they have so that we can determine how best to develop the specifications for collecting this information and ingesting it into our system, as well as integrate it with the broadband availability data we are required by statute to collect. As a result, we have had initial conversations regarding the Broadband Deployment Locations Map with our colleagues at the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of the Treasury, the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Once the systems are developed and the requirements are finalized, we will continue to coordinate closely to develop a schedule for collecting this funding data from federal agencies that provide broadband funding. Based on our progress to date, we anticipate being able to complete an initial version of the Broadband Deployment Locations Map within the 18-month timeframe set out in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, including incorporation of availability data collected as part of the Broadband Data Collection.

I look forward to working with you and others in Congress as we continue to improve the FCC's broadband deployment data and bring high-speed, reliable broadband to everyone, everywhere.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Rosenworcel", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jessica Rosenworcel



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WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRWOMAN

April 15, 2022

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Masto:

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