Brendan Carr
Chairman

September 9, 2025

The Honorable David Joyce
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
U.S. House of Representatives
2000 Rayburn House Office Building (G Floor)
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Joyce:

On April 28, 2025, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled "Broadband Programs: Agencies Need to Further Improve Their Data Quality and Coordination Efforts." (Report No. GAO-25-107207). The report examined three areas: 1) sources of broadband availability information used by federal agencies and the quality of data in the Commission's National Broadband Map; 2) federal agencies' coordination efforts and the extent to which they align with leading interagency collaboration practices that GAO has identified; and 3) federal agencies' coordination of broadband funding with state and territory governments. As GAO recognized in its report, the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC or Commission) National Broadband Map and Broadband Funding Map are integral to efficient and effective decision making in the distribution of federal broadband funding.

In 2022, the Commission launched the National Broadband Map, displaying for the first time a granular, location-specific view of exactly where internet service is and is not available for residences and small businesses across the United States. The FCC updates the National Broadband Map twice a year based on reports filed by Internet service providers in the biannual Broadband Data Collection. The National Broadband Map is also updated to reflect the outcomes of challenges, verifications, audits and other corrections providers make to their data every two weeks. Following numerous data collection cycles and input from consumers, states, localities, Tribes, and other stakeholders, the National Broadband Map's accuracy has continued to improve. The National Broadband Map currently displays broadband availability data for over 116 million broadband serviceable locations.

In 2023, the Commission also created and published the Broadband Funding Map, which displays where federal agencies have awarded funding for last-mile broadband deployment projects. The Commission coordinates with other agencies to collect data where they award funding and publishes their funding data on the Broadband Funding Map in order to prevent wasteful duplicative funding, and efficiently allocate federal resources for the broadband deployment. Between the Broadband Funding Map and the National Broadband Map, these sources provide highly granular broadband data, including where broadband exists today, where it is funded to be built, and where it is needed in the future.

In its report, GAO made six recommendations to assist the Commission in interagency coordination and data collection for the FCC maps. Specifically, GAO recommended that the Commission: (1) formally document the FCC's internal policies and procedures for conducting validations, verifications, and audits of the broadband availability data the FCC collects and making

enforcement referrals; (2) assess and document the results of its Broadband Data Collection monitoring to identify any deficiencies in its data validations, verifications, audits, and enforcement referral processes; (3) take steps to remedy any deficiencies it identifies in the FCC's monitoring of Broadband Data Collection validations, verifications, audits, and enforcement referrals; (4) clearly define and document, in collaboration and agreement with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury), as appropriate, the scope of what constitutes the "covered data" referenced in the agencies' information-sharing memorandum of understanding; (5) clearly define and document, in collaboration with NTIA, USDA, and Treasury, as appropriate, timelines for agencies to submit data on funded awards to the Broadband Funding Map, including any changes to awards; and (6) clearly define and formally document, in collaboration and agreement with NTIA, USDA, and Treasury, as appropriate, the agencies' broadband funding de-duplication process.

The Commission takes its duty to develop the most comprehensive and accurate broadband maps ever built in the United States seriously, and I appreciate the recommendations GAO provided in the report. While we continue to refine the accuracy of our maps through the iterative processes of biannual reporting, consumer challenges, verifications, and audits, we are also committed to reviewing and improving our processes to validate the underlying data that is reflected on the maps. We are pleased to inform you that the Commission is actively addressing and incorporating GAO's six recommendations into our processes and interagency coordination of federal broadband funding projects

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I appreciate the opportunity to comment on GAO's report, and I would be happy to answer any further questions and provide you with updates in the future.

Sincerely,

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Chairman

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September 9, 2025

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
U.S. House of Representatives
1036 Longworth Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Hoyer:

On April 28, 2025, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled "Broadband Programs: Agencies Need to Further Improve Their Data Quality and Coordination Efforts." (Report No. GAO-25-107207). The report examined three areas: 1) sources of broadband availability information used by federal agencies and the quality of data in the Commission's National Broadband Map; 2) federal agencies' coordination efforts and the extent to which they align with leading interagency collaboration practices that GAO has identified; and 3) federal agencies' coordination of broadband funding with state and territory governments. As GAO recognized in its report, the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC or Commission) National Broadband Map and Broadband Funding Map are integral to efficient and effective decision making in the distribution of federal broadband funding.

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Chairman

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September 9, 2025

The Honorable Bill Hagerty
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
United States Senate
S-128 The Capital Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hagerty:

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Sincerely,

Brendan Carr,
Chairman

September 9, 2025

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
United States Senate
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Reed:

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September 9, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz:

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September 9, 2025

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
554 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Cantwell:

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I appreciate the opportunity to comment on GAO's report, and I would be happy to answer any further questions and provide you with updates in the future.

Sincerely,

Brendan Carr,
Chairman

Brendan Carr
Chairman

September 9, 2025

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Guthrie:

On April 28, 2025, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled "Broadband Programs: Agencies Need to Further Improve Their Data Quality and Coordination Efforts." (Report No. GAO-25-107207). The report examined three areas: 1) sources of broadband availability information used by federal agencies and the quality of data in the Commission's National Broadband Map; 2) federal agencies' coordination efforts and the extent to which they align with leading interagency collaboration practices that GAO has identified; and 3) federal agencies' coordination of broadband funding with state and territory governments. As GAO recognized in its report, the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC or Commission) National Broadband Map and Broadband Funding Map are integral to efficient and effective decision making in the distribution of federal broadband funding.

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Sincerely,

Brendan Carr,
Chairman

Brendan Carr
Chairman

September 9, 2025

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Pallone:

On April 28, 2025, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled "Broadband Programs: Agencies Need to Further Improve Their Data Quality and Coordination Efforts." (Report No. GAO-25-107207). The report examined three areas: 1) sources of broadband availability information used by federal agencies and the quality of data in the Commission's National Broadband Map; 2) federal agencies' coordination efforts and the extent to which they align with leading interagency collaboration practices that GAO has identified; and 3) federal agencies' coordination of broadband funding with state and territory governments. As GAO recognized in its report, the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC or Commission) National Broadband Map and Broadband Funding Map are integral to efficient and effective decision making in the distribution of federal broadband funding.

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Sincerely,

Brendan Carr,
Chairman

Brendan Carr
Chairman

September 9, 2025

The Honorable Rand Paul
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Paul:

On April 28, 2025, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled "Broadband Programs: Agencies Need to Further Improve Their Data Quality and Coordination Efforts." (Report No. GAO-25-107207). The report examined three areas: 1) sources of broadband availability information used by federal agencies and the quality of data in the Commission's National Broadband Map; 2) federal agencies' coordination efforts and the extent to which they align with leading interagency collaboration practices that GAO has identified; and 3) federal agencies' coordination of broadband funding with state and territory governments. As GAO recognized in its report, the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC or Commission) National Broadband Map and Broadband Funding Map are integral to efficient and effective decision making in the distribution of federal broadband funding.

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I appreciate the opportunity to comment on GAO's report, and I would be happy to answer any further questions and provide you with updates in the future.

Sincerely,

Brendan Carr,
Chairman

September 9, 2025

The Honorable Gary Peters
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
442 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Peters:

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Sincerely,

Brendan Carr,
Chairman

Brendan Carr
Chairman   September 9, 2025

The Honorable James R. Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Comer:

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Sincerely,

Brendan Carr,
Chairman

Brendan Carr
Chairman   September 9, 2025

The Honorable Robert Garcia
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2105 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Garcia:

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In 2022, the Commission launched the National Broadband Map, displaying for the first time a granular, location-specific view of exactly where internet service is and is not available for residences and small businesses across the United States. The FCC updates the National Broadband Map twice a year based on reports filed by Internet service providers in the biannual Broadband Data Collection. The National Broadband Map is also updated to reflect the outcomes of challenges, verifications, audits and other corrections providers make to their data every two weeks. Following numerous data collection cycles and input from consumers, states, localities, Tribes, and other stakeholders, the National Broadband Map's accuracy has continued to improve. The National Broadband Map currently displays broadband availability data for over 116 million broadband serviceable locations.

In 2023, the Commission also created and published the Broadband Funding Map, which displays where federal agencies have awarded funding for last-mile broadband deployment projects. The Commission coordinates with other agencies to collect data where they award funding and publishes their funding data on the Broadband Funding Map in order to prevent wasteful duplicative funding, and efficiently allocate federal resources for the broadband deployment. Between the Broadband Funding Map and the National Broadband Map, these sources provide highly granular broadband data, including where broadband exists today, where it is funded to be built, and where it is needed in the future.

In its report, GAO made six recommendations to assist the Commission in interagency coordination and data collection for the FCC maps. Specifically, GAO recommended that the Commission: (1) formally document the FCC's internal policies and procedures for conducting validations, verifications, and audits of the broadband availability data the FCC collects and making enforcement referrals; (2) assess and document the results of its Broadband Data Collection monitoring to

identify any deficiencies in its data validations, verifications, audits, and enforcement referral processes; (3) take steps to remedy any deficiencies it identifies in the FCC's monitoring of Broadband Data Collection validations, verifications, audits, and enforcement referrals; (4) clearly define and document, in collaboration and agreement with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury), as appropriate, the scope of what constitutes the "covered data" referenced in the agencies' information-sharing memorandum of understanding; (5) clearly define and document, in collaboration with NTIA, USDA, and Treasury, as appropriate, timelines for agencies to submit data on funded awards to the Broadband Funding Map, including any changes to awards; and (6) clearly define and formally document, in collaboration and agreement with NTIA, USDA, and Treasury, as appropriate, the agencies' broadband funding de-duplication process.

The Commission takes its duty to develop the most comprehensive and accurate broadband maps ever built in the United States seriously, and I appreciate the recommendations GAO provided in the report. While we continue to refine the accuracy of our maps through the iterative processes of biannual reporting, consumer challenges, verifications, and audits, we are also committed to reviewing and improving our processes to validate the underlying data that is reflected on the maps. We are pleased to inform you that the Commission is actively addressing and incorporating GAO's six recommendations into our processes and interagency coordination of federal broadband funding projects

With regard to the first three GAO recommendations above, which generally cover improvements to our data collection and review processes, the Commission has taken steps to fully document its internal policies and procedures for conducting validations, including processes for periodically assessing and documenting any deficiencies or other opportunities for improvements. In addition, as we have previously shared with GAO, the Commission continues to review validation processes after each filing round and has actively taken steps to remedy any deficiencies identified while making other improvements designed to enhance the accuracy of Broadband Data Collection filer data. The Commission is also actively working to align its existing SOPs for verifications, audits, and enforcement referrals that were previously shared with GAO to government best practices. This will include documenting internal review processes and remedying any deficiencies identified. This work is being done in accordance with an internal corrective action plan, and we believe these internal reviews will enhance data quality for our maps.

With regard to the remaining three GAO recommendations that focus on interagency coordination, the Commission, in consultation with our sister agencies, has also made progress towards implementation. Following the GAO's report in April 2025, the agencies exchanged draft proposals to document in writing the meaning of "covered data" related processes for interagency sharing of information under our current memorandum of understanding pursuant to the Broadband Interagency Coordination Act, resulting in a proposal that is undergoing internal review for approval by each agency's leadership. In addition, based on discussions to-date, the Commission, USDA, and NTIA similarly proposed and have agreed in principal on documented processes for timelines of data submissions to the Broadband Funding Map and for de-duplication of our respective broadband funding programs. The Commission is conducting an internal review of the draft procedures for further revisions, if necessary, and approval to update its procedures to improve interagency coordination of broadband funding programs. Together, when fully implemented, the Commission, as well as our sister agencies, expect these process improvements will further minimize wasteful duplicative funding.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on GAO's report, and I would be happy to answer any further questions and provide you with updates in the future.

Sincerely,

Brendan Carr,
Chairman