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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To ensure that certain broadband projects are not subject to requirements to prepare certain environmental or historical preservation reviews, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M____. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To ensure that certain broadband projects are not subject to requirements to prepare certain environmental or historical preservation reviews, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Reducing Barriers for
5 Broadband on Federal Lands Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXEMPTIONS FOR CERTAIN BROADBAND**
2 **PROJECTS.**

3 (a) NEPA EXEMPTION.—The issuance of a Federal
4 authorization with respect to a broadband project carried
5 out in a right-of-way may not be considered a major Fed-
6 eral action under section 102(2)(C) of the National Envi-
7 ronmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

8 (b) NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT EX-
9 EMPTION.—A broadband project carried out in a right-
10 of-way may not be considered an undertaking under sec-
11 tion 300320 of title 54, United States Code.

12 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) BROADBAND PROJECT.—The term
14 “broadband project” means an installation, by a
15 broadband provider on Federal land, of wireline or
16 wireless broadband infrastructure that enables a
17 user to originate and receive high-quality voice, data,
18 graphics, and video telecommunications, including
19 copper lines, fiber optic lines, communications tow-
20 ers, buildings, or other improvements.

21 (2) BROADBAND PROVIDER.—The term
22 “broadband provider” means a provider of wireline
23 or wireless broadband infrastructure that enables a
24 user to originate and receive high-quality voice, data,
25 graphics, and video telecommunications.

1 (3) FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION.—The term
2 “Federal authorization”—

3 (A) means any authorization required
4 under Federal law with respect to a project;
5 and

6 (B) includes any permits, special use au-
7 thorizations, certifications, opinions, or other
8 approvals as may be required under Federal law
9 with respect to a project.

10 (4) RIGHT-OF-WAY.—The term “right-of-
11 way”—

12 (A) means—

13 (i) the area on, below, or above a
14 roadway, highway, street, sidewalk, alley,
15 or similar property (whether currently or
16 previously used in such manner); and

17 (ii) any land immediately adjacent to
18 and contiguous with property described in
19 clause (i) that is within the right-of-way
20 grant; and

21 (B) does not include a portion of the Inter-
22 state System (as such term is defined in section
23 101(a) of title 23, United States Code).