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7 MARKUP OF 28 BILLS TO STREAMLINE BROADBAND PERMITTING

8 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025

9 House of Representatives,

10 Subcommittee on Communications and Technology,

11 Committee on Energy and Commerce,

12 Washington, D.C.

13

14 The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 10:20 a.m. in
15 Room 2123, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Richard Hudson
16 [chairman of the subcommittee] presiding.

17 Present: Representatives Hudson, Allen, Latta,
18 Griffith, Bilirakis, Carter of Georgia, Dunn, Fulcher,
19 Pfluger, Cammack, Obernolte, Houchin, Fry, Kean, Goldman,
20 Fedorchak, Guthrie (ex officio); Matsui, Soto, Clarke, Ruiz,
21 Peters, Dingell, Kelly, Barragan, Carter of Louisiana,
22 Menendez, Landsman, McClellan, Castor, and Pallone (ex
23 officio).

24 Staff Present: Ansley Boylan, Director of Operations;
25 Jessica Donlon, General Counsel; Michael Essington, Chief
26 Counsel; Sydney Greene, Director of Finance & Logistics;
27 Annabelle Huffman, Clerk; Calvin Huggins, Clerk; Megan

28 Jackson, Staff Director; Noah Jackson, Clerk; Daniel Kelly,
29 Press Secretary; Sophie Khanahmadi, Deputy Staff Director;
30 Alex Khlopin, Policy Analyst; Brayden Lacefield, Special
31 Assistant; Sarah Meier, Counsel and Parliamentarian; Joel
32 Miller, Chief Counsel; Elaina Murphy, Professional Staff
33 Member; Lillian Noland, Staff Assistant; Jake Riith, Staff
34 Assistant; Dylan Rogers, Professional Staff Member; Jackson
35 Rudden, Clerk; Chris Sarley, Member Services/Stakeholder
36 Director; Timothy Trimble, Staff Assistant; Matt VanHyfte,
37 Communications Director; Jane Vickers, Press Assistant;
38 Hannah Anton, Minority Policy Analyst; Giancarlo Ceja,
39 Minority Staff Assistant; Paul Desai, Minority Chief Counsel,
40 CAT; Waverly Gordon, Minority Deputy Staff Director and
41 General Counsel; Tiffany Guarascio, Minority Staff Director;
42 Jackson Hall, Minority Intern; Perry Hamilton, Minority
43 Deputy Director, Member Services and Outreach; Dan Miller,
44 Minority Professional Staff Member; Shae Reinberg, Minority
45 Intern; Michael Scurato, Minority FCC Detailee; Andrew
46 Souvall, Minority Director of Communications, Outreach, and
47 Member Services; Johanna Thomas, Minority Counsel; and Hannah
48 Treger, Minority Staff Assistant.

49

50 *Mr. Hudson. The committee will come to order. The
51 chair recognizes himself for an opening statement.

52 Well, good morning. Welcome to today's subcommittee
53 markup of legislation to streamline broadband permitting. We
54 are considering 28 bills that reduce or eliminate barriers to
55 broadband deployment so we can finally close that digital
56 divide.

57 For years this subcommittee has discussed the importance
58 of ensuring every American has access to reliable, high-speed
59 broadband. Work, education, our health care, even check-ins
60 from faraway loved ones require a broadband connection, yet
61 too many Americans still lack access to the essential
62 services. From the mountains of North Carolina to the
63 military base at Fort Bragg in my district, reaching those
64 final unserved and underserved Americans requires funding.
65 It also requires permitting reform.

66 Too often, broadband deployment is prevented or delayed
67 because of burdensome, opaque, and expensive permitting
68 processes that exist at every level of government: Federal,
69 state, and local. These unnecessary obstacles not only
70 increase costs for deployment, but they also delay progress
71 for communities that have already waited, frankly, too long.
72 We need to address these challenges if we hope to close the
73 digital divide once and for all. The legislation we are
74 marking up today does just that.

75 First we streamline the state and local permitting
76 process by implementing clear timelines, or shot clocks, on
77 application reviews and capping excessive fees.

78 Next we exempt certain projects, mostly those on
79 previously disturbed lands, from having to perform cumbersome
80 and duplicative environmental and historic preservation
81 reviews.

82 Finally, we reduce barriers to deployment on Federal
83 lands and increase coordination among different Federal
84 agencies. Together, these reforms will add much-needed
85 certainty, predictability, and accountability to the
86 broadband permitting process and help expedite deployment.

87 Many of these ideas are not new. In fact, some have
88 already been enacted by the Federal Communications Commission
89 under then-Chairman Ajit Pai. The FCC reformed state and
90 local permitting by implementing shot clocks on reviews,
91 capping fees, and removing other barriers to deployment.
92 These reforms accelerated the rollout of 5G and showed how
93 streamlining this process can make a real difference.
94 Congress needs to codify and build on these reforms so they
95 last.

96 We are on the verge of closing the digital divide, and
97 need to act now. After four years of delays caused by the
98 Biden-Harris Administration, deployment will soon begin
99 through the 42.45 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and

100 Deployment, or BEAD program. But for these programs to
101 succeed, permitting reform is essential. Otherwise, all this
102 money will be tied up in further unnecessary reviews and
103 bureaucratic delays. We cannot let the millions of unserved
104 and underserved Americans continue waiting for the
105 connectivity they need simply because we failed to modernize
106 outdated rules.

107 Six of the bills we are marking up today are bipartisan.
108 I am pleased we found common ground on these reforms, and
109 hope we can continue working together to make the remaining
110 bills bipartisan as well. Closing the digital divide has
111 always been a shared goal of this committee, regardless of
112 which party holds the gavel. We should not allow red tape
113 and outdated bureaucracy stand between Americans and the
114 connectivity they need to work, to learn, to innovate, and to
115 thrive.

116 I want to thank my colleagues for their continued
117 commitment to this issue and for their work developing these
118 proposals. I look forward to moving these bills through the
119 committee and onto the floor so we can deliver results for
120 the American people.

121 I now recognize the ranking member, the gentlelady from
122 California, for her opening statement.

123 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and welcome back.

124 Broadband is today's essential service. Families need

125 it to help their kids learn, to keep their jobs, and to get
126 care when they are sick. So I am glad we are having this
127 markup today because we have a lot of work to do to make sure
128 the Internet is accessible and affordable to everyone.

129 We just went through a shutdown during which we did
130 nothing to address the affordability crisis in America.
131 Speaker Johnson kept us out of session, not doing our jobs
132 for a remarkable 54 days, all because Republicans refused to
133 even consider extending the ACA's enhanced premium tax
134 credits while families are staring at skyrocketing health
135 costs. And President Trump has failed to bring everyday
136 prices down. Too often the very people high prices are
137 hurting the most are also the ones still waiting for
138 affordable, reliable broadband. They can't keep waiting.

139 As we begin this markup, our job today is clearing real
140 barriers to deployment while preserving safeguards that
141 protect communities. We can do both, but to do so we need to
142 consider the broader context that will shape whether any of
143 this work succeeds.

144 State broadband offices, local leaders, and providers
145 have been planning projects for years under BEAD and digital
146 equity programs. Since day one President Trump has thrown
147 this process into chaos, freezing funds, forcing restarts,
148 and stripping affordability protections, slowing deployment
149 and keeping costs high. We are seeing this up close in my

150 district.

151 California is investing big to close the digital divide,
152 including the \$38 million in last mile funding to Sacramento
153 County alone. But we still need BEAD dollars to finish the
154 job. That includes connecting the dead zones just 20 minutes
155 outside of Sacramento and reaching the dozens of delta
156 farming communities still waiting for reliable service. If
157 we move one step forward on permitting while taking two steps
158 back on BEAD, we won't close the digital divide, we will
159 widen it.

160 Despite these concerns, I am encouraged by the
161 bipartisan items before us, proposals that are targeted,
162 practical, and consistent with what we have heard from
163 states, localities, and builders. They make the permitting
164 process more predictable in pushing agencies to coordinate.
165 Everyone benefits when we make the process more transparent.

166 I am especially proud of the Digital Applications Act,
167 which I co-lead with Representative Cammack. This bill
168 creates a one-stop online portal to accept, process, and
169 track broadband permitting applications on Federal land. It
170 promotes transparency and accountability for a process that
171 is often fragmenting, helping us deliver predictable
172 timelines without sacrificing the public interest.

173 Unfortunately, there are some bills today that I won't
174 be able to support, proposals that would force local

175 governments to meet tight deadlines without any extra staff
176 or funding. And if this clock runs out, the project is
177 automatically approved. That may sound like a way to speed
178 things up, but in reality it cuts out community input, leads
179 to mistakes, and sets us up for more delays down the road.
180 If we want faster reviews, we should give local communities
181 more help, not take away their say.

182 Let's be honest. Let's call out what is really slowing
183 deployment: the Trump Administration's constant disruptions
184 to BEAD. Meanwhile, Republicans are cherry-picking stories
185 about slow permits to justify steamrolling local voices and
186 rubber-stamping approvals. Families in Sacramento across all
187 our districts just want this to work. They want to get
188 online, be able to afford their bills, and know the
189 connection will be there when they need it. We can get there
190 if we work together. Let's pass our bipartisan bills, stop
191 this Administration from knee-capping Federal broadband
192 funding, and finally get shovels in the ground.

193 With that I look forward to the discussion of these
194 bills, and I yield the balance of my time.

195 I yield back.

196 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you. I now recognize the gentleman
197 from Georgia, the vice chairman of the subcommittee, for five
198 minutes for an opening statement. He is speaking on behalf
199 of the gentleman from Kentucky, the chairman of the full

200 committee. The gentleman is recognized.

201 *Mr. Allen. Thank you, Chairman Hudson, for holding
202 this important markup.

203 Streamlining the broadband permitting process is
204 important for two simple reasons: closing the digital divide
205 and ensuring America's leadership in artificial intelligence.

206 Broadband is an essential part of everyday life. But
207 too many parts of this country, particularly rural areas like
208 most of my district, are still unserved or underserved. And
209 connectivity is essential for AI. From utilizing AI tools to
210 processing and transmitting data, we need to build the
211 networks capable of meeting this demand. That is why we need
212 to reform the permitting process and make it easier to deploy
213 broadband.

214 Today this process often delays or even prevents
215 building this important infrastructure. Unpredictable
216 timelines, expensive and sometimes duplicative reviews, and
217 the lack of transparency all contribute to making deployment
218 more challenging and much more expensive. Unless we reform
219 this process, the money and time that should be spent on
220 deployment will instead be wasting -- wasted navigating
221 duplicative layers of red tape.

222 The legislation we are marking up today, 28 bills, will
223 streamline the broadband permitting process and give
224 providers the certainty and predictability they need as they

225 plan their deployments. These bills put timelines on state
226 and local permitting reviews so providers know when they can
227 expect decisions on their applications; limit application
228 fees so that money can be spent on construction instead of
229 paperwork; exempt certain projects from redundant and
230 expensive environmental and historic preservation reviews;
231 encourage Federal agencies to prioritize broadband
232 applications; and provide transparency into the opaque
233 Federal permitting review process through requiring digital
234 portables.

235 Affordability for the American people is the word of the
236 day. Streamlining these processes will save the American
237 people billions of dollars in bureaucratic red tape. I want
238 to thank each of the sponsors of these bills, both
239 Republicans and Democrats, for their work and commitment to
240 ensuring that every American has access to connectivity, and
241 it is affordable. I look forward to moving these bills
242 through our process and signed into law.

243 With that, Mr. Chairman, I will yield back.

244 *Mr. Hudson. I thank the gentleman. I now recognize
245 the chairman -- the gentleman from New Jersey, the ranking
246 member, for five minutes for his opening statement.

247 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad the
248 committee is finally getting back to work after the
249 Republicans shut down for more than 40 days, but I will

250 continue to be critical of Speaker Johnson because he kept
251 the House out of session during the entire shutdown and did
252 not work with Democrats to make health care more affordable
253 during that period.

254 And after such a long and painful hiatus it is
255 unfortunate that our Republican colleagues have decided that
256 the first order of business in this committee is a vote on
257 their so-called broadband infrastructure permitting reform
258 legislation. If Republicans are really serious about
259 ensuring every American has access to affordable, high-speed
260 Internet service, they would join us in fighting the Trump
261 Administration for its unacceptable delays of broadband
262 deployment projects that were ready months ago. And this is
263 the same package of partisan bills that Republicans pushed
264 last Congress. And after investing so much time and energy
265 in this committee on the issue, our Republican colleagues
266 never even put it on the floor for a vote. And there are two
267 very simple reasons for that.

268 First, the package is full of bad ideas that are
269 unpopular with members on both sides of the aisle. Putting
270 arbitrary deadlines on state, local, and tribal governments
271 to start and finish complicated permit reviews under threat
272 of an automatic construction approval is opposed across the
273 board by the local officials who are responsible for doing
274 the work. Other provisions would gut any local community's

275 ability to protect historic and culturally significant sites,
276 especially for tribal communities. And all together, these
277 are the kinds of ideas that sound like reform only in
278 Washington.

279 Now, these bills also went nowhere because they don't
280 meaningfully address true barriers to broadband deployment
281 that stakeholders have consistently raised with the committee
282 for almost a decade. For instance, the partisan Republican
283 permitting bill does not attempt to fix the instability in
284 the market around pole attachments, nor does their
285 legislation even make a modest investment to hire sufficient
286 numbers of qualified staff to speed up permit reviews inside
287 Federal agencies. And this is especially disappointing,
288 given that the Biden Administration did make those
289 investments only to have those personnel fired by Trump's
290 political appointees. But our colleagues will sit across the
291 room and go on and on about red tape as if these delays of
292 today are not a direct result of Republican actions, when in
293 fact they are.

294 Now, right now, broadband deployment all across the
295 nation is being delayed by the Trump Administration, and
296 congressional Republicans are standing on the sidelines and
297 watching it happen. Earlier this year the Trump
298 Administration delayed more than \$42 billion in broadband
299 funding that we passed as part of the Bipartisan

300 Infrastructure Law that was ready to go out to states as part
301 of the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment, or BEAD,
302 program. The Administration made states go back to the
303 drawing board on their state program plans, delaying
304 broadband deployments.

305 The Trump Administration's new policy requires states
306 and territories to select the cheapest bids, regardless of
307 whether those bids are the best quality or even most
308 effective -- cost effective over time. And Republicans spent
309 years demonizing the Biden Administration for the time it
310 took to carefully execute a massive, highly prescriptive
311 broadband program to connect all Americans to affordable,
312 reliable, high-speed Internet. But now, almost a year later,
313 Republicans have not connected a single household to high-
314 speed Internet. In fact, the Trump Administration continues
315 to delay the program, guaranteeing that rural and low-income
316 communities get slower and less reliable Internet service --
317 and they are breaking the law to do that, in my opinion.

318 And despite Republicans' ongoing sabotage of the BEAD
319 program, House Democrats have shown time and time and again
320 our commitment to the goal of ensuring everyone has access to
321 fast, reliable and affordable Internet service. Democrats
322 will continue to work across the aisle to address any real
323 structural barriers to deploying communications
324 infrastructure across the country that we -- that would stand

325 in the way of progress.

326 Now, I want to say I support the six bipartisan bills
327 that we will be considering today. These bills aim to
328 address issues that cause unnecessary delays and difficulty
329 in the permitting process dealing with Federal agencies, like
330 updating antiquated systems and requiring standard transport
331 fee structures across the board. So I appreciate the fact
332 that we have those bipartisan bills, but I obviously cannot
333 support the first bill for the reason -- or I guess today it
334 will be the last bill -- for the reasons that I set forth.

335 And I will have some amendments, Mr. Chairman. With
336 that I yield back.

337 *Mr. Hudson. I look forward to seeing those amendments.
338 Thank you, sir.

339 The chair reminds members that, pursuant to the
340 committee rules, all members' opening statements will be made
341 part of the record.

342 Are there any further opening statements?

343 The chair calls up H.R. 1343 and asks the clerk to
344 report.

345 *The Clerk. H.R. 1343, a bill to require the Assistant
346 Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to
347 submit to Congress a plan for the Assistant Secretary to
348 track the acceptance, processing, and disposal of certain
349 forms --

350 *Mr. Hudson. Without objection, the first reading of
351 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
352 amendment at any point.

353 So ordered.

354 [The bill follows:]

355

356 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

357

358 *Mr. Hudson. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
359 bill?

360 For what purpose does the gentleman from Texas seek
361 recognition?

362 *Mr. Pfluger. To speak in favor of the bill.

363 *Mr. Hudson. You are recognized for five minutes to
364 speak on the bill.

365 *Mr. Pfluger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I speak in
366 favor of H.R. 1343, the Federal Broadband Deployment Tracking
367 Act, and I am proud to lead this, what I hope will be a
368 bipartisan and common-sense bill, with my colleague,
369 Congressman Soto, to improve transparency and efficiency in
370 the broadband deployment process.

371 This bill, which passed unanimously on the House floor
372 last Congress, would require the NTIA to submit a
373 comprehensive plan to Congress detailing how it will track
374 permit applications to deploy on Federal lands. This
375 transparency is essential to streamline the process for
376 accessing easements and rights of way to build and maintain
377 telecommunications infrastructure.

378 At the last hearing we had on this issue we heard
379 several detailed examples from providers across the
380 telecommunications spectrum outlining the urgent need for
381 this legislation. They shared repeated stories of crews that
382 were prepared to act with infrastructure that was forward

383 deployed and ready to go, only to be left waiting for permits
384 for an extraordinary amount of time. One witness testified
385 that more than 600 locations could not be served due to
386 delays in permit approvals, even though everything else was
387 ready to be deployed, forcing the providers to walk away.
388 Another described an example in which permits have been
389 delayed for two-and-a-half years, just to progress from one
390 stage of the approval process to the next, and the company is
391 still awaiting approval.

392 These are not isolated incidents. They are just a few
393 examples of the many challenges providers nationwide are
394 experiencing. Passing the Federal Broadband Deployment
395 Tracking Act would be a crucial step towards fixing this
396 process and closing the digital divide, creating a more
397 connected future for all Americans.

398 I urge both sides of the aisle to pass this, and I am
399 hopeful that we can go a couple of minutes without negative
400 comments on the Administration. That would be really nice in
401 this bipartisan effort.

402 And I yield back.

403 *Mr. Hudson. The gentleman yields back. Are there --
404 is there any further discussion on this bill?

405 For what purpose does the gentleman from Florida seek to
406 be recognized?

407 *Mr. Soto. To strike the last word.

408 *Mr. Hudson. The gentleman is recognized for five
409 minutes to speak on the bill.

410 *Mr. Soto. Thank you, Chairman, and I thank my dear
411 friend, Representative Pfluger from Texas. A good bipartisan
412 bill today to start us off.

413 You know, we have 42 billion to help with rural
414 broadband. You know, these are areas in my district that are
415 ranch country, they are helping feed America in places like
416 Kenansville, Deer Park, Yeehaw Junction, and more.

417 And, you know, we have an 11-month runway. I am hoping
418 we will get this moving because, you know, these folks have
419 seen some utility bills going up, especially power bills. So
420 if we can get more affordability with regard to Internet
421 service, that would be a huge help. Areas around central
422 Florida like Ocala National Forest, Cape Canaveral, Avon Park
423 Air Force Base would really benefit from making sure we are
424 streamlining the permitting process on Federal lands for
425 these broadband applications.

426 And so I certainly support the bill and encourage all my
427 colleagues to vote for it, and I yield back.

428 *Mr. Hudson. I thank the gentleman. Is there any
429 further discussion on the bill?

430 Seeing none, let's see. Are there any amendments? Are
431 there any -- where am I? All right.

432 Seeing -- if there is no further discussion, the vote

433 occurs on -- will be on the bill. Is there a request for a
434 recorded vote?

435 Seeing not, the clerk will call the roll.

436 *Voice. No, we are not -- we are going to --

437 *Mr. Hudson. Voice vote.

438 *Voice. All those in favor, say --

439 *Mr. Hudson. Oh, all those in favor, say aye.

440 Opposed?

441 The bill is agreed to.

442 Sorry, I am a little rusty up here after 43 days in my
443 district.

444 The chair calls up H.R. 1588 and asks the clerk to
445 report.

446 *The Clerk. H.R. 1588, a bill to require the Assistant
447 Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information --

448 *Mr. Hudson. Without objection, the first reading of
449 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
450 amendment at any point.

451 So ordered.

452 [The bill follows:]

453

454 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

455

456 *Mr. Hudson. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
457 bill?

458 For what purpose does the gentlelady seek recognition?

459 *Mrs. Dingell. To speak in support of the bill.

460 *Mr. Hudson. You are recognized for five minutes to
461 speak on the bill.

462 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike
463 the last word.

464 We need to fully realize our broadband investments. To
465 do that we need to make smart, thoughtful, and targeted
466 improvements to our broadband permitting process.
467 Modernizing these systems will ensure we have an effective,
468 transparent, and efficient process in place to deploy
469 broadband quickly and equitably for all Americans. That is
470 why I am leading bipartisan legislation with my colleague,
471 Congresswoman Miller-Meeke, to expedite and approve the
472 tracking of broadband deployment on Federal lands.

473 Our Facilitating Digital Applications Act would require
474 NTIA to report to Congress on whether the Departments of the
475 Interior and Agriculture have established an online portal
476 for the acceptance, processing, and disposal of the
477 application form used to deploy broadband on Federal
478 property. Our bill will modernize the current system by
479 moving the outdated paper-based Form 299 process online. It
480 directs the Interior and Agriculture Departments to create

481 digital portals for these applications, requires NTIA
482 administrator to update Congress every 60 days on progress
483 made and obstacles encountered.

484 By streamlining this process our legislation aims to
485 reduce delays at the Federal level, improve transparency in
486 applications, and accelerate the expansion of broadband and
487 cell service, particularly in rural areas where reliable
488 connectivity is critical for communities and where it stinks
489 sometimes, to be blunt. We need a little more realism in
490 here.

491 It is a simple and common-sense fix. Moving from a
492 paper-based Form 299 to a modern online system is a
493 straightforward step to bring Federal permitting into the
494 21st century. It will have real impact for providers,
495 especially smaller ones trying to expand service in rural
496 areas. It could speed up deployment of broadband and
497 wireless infrastructure. The goal of our bill is to help
498 provide better service for people who need it the most.

499 Rural communities have been waiting way too long for
500 reliable cell and Internet service, and this bill moves us in
501 the right direction. Modernization of these legacy systems
502 demonstrates both the need for and the value of reporting and
503 oversight requirements in our Facilitating Digital
504 Applications Act.

505 I want to thank my co-lead, Congresswoman Miller-Meeks,

506 for her leadership on this effort, and I look forward to
507 working with everyone on this committee to get this bill to
508 the House floor.

509 Thank you, and I yield back.

510 *Mr. Hudson. I thank the gentlelady. Is there any
511 further discussion on the bill?

512 If there is no further discussion, the vote occurs on
513 the amendment -- or on the -- H.R. -- sorry, we have changed
514 the format of my notes here. The question now occurs on
515 adopting H.R. 1343 (sic).

516 All those in favor, say aye.

517 Those opposed, no.

518 The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted and forwarded
519 to the full committee.

520 The chair calls up H.R. 1588 and asks the clerk to
521 report.

522 Is that right?

523 *Voice. No, the next one.

524 *Mr. Hudson. The chair calls up H.R. 1665 and asks the
525 clerk to report.

526 *The Clerk. H.R. 1665, a bill to require the Department
527 of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture to
528 establish online portals to accept, process, and dispose of
529 certain Form 299s, and for other purposes.

530 Section 1, short title. This act may be cited as the

531 Deploying Infrastructure with Greater Internet Transactions
532 and Legacy Applications Act, or the DIGITAL Applications Act.

533 *Mr. Hudson. Without objection, the first reading of
534 the bill is dispensed with. The bill will be open to
535 amendment at any point.

536 So ordered.

537 [The bill follows:]

538

539 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

540

541 *Mr. Hudson. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
542 bill?

543 Okay, the question now occurs on adopting H.R. -- is
544 this the right number -- 1665.

545 All those in favor, say aye.

546 Those opposed, no.

547 The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted and forwarded
548 to the full committee.

549 The chair now calls up H.R. 1681 and asks the clerk to
550 report.

551 *The Clerk. H.R. 1681, a bill to require the Assistant
552 Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to
553 establish an interagency strike force to ensure that --

554 *Mr. Hudson. Without objection, the first reading of
555 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
556 amendment at any time.

557 So ordered.

558 [The bill follows:]

559

560 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

561

562 *Mr. Hudson. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
563 bill?

564 If there is no further discussion, the question now
565 occurs on adopting H.R. 1681.

566 All those in favor say aye.

567 Those opposed, no.

568 The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted and forwarded
569 to the full committee.

570 The chair now calls up H.R. 1731, and asks the clerk to
571 report.

572 *The Clerk. H.R. 1731, a bill to amend the Middle Class
573 Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012.

574 *Mr. Hudson. Without objection, the first reading of
575 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open to
576 amendment at any point.

577 [The bill follows:]

578

579 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

580

581 *Mr. Hudson. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
582 bill?

583 *Mr. Landsman. Mr. Chair?

584 *Mr. Hudson. For what purpose does the gentleman seek
585 recognition?

586 *Mr. Landsman. I have an amendment in the nature of a
587 substitute at the desk labeled RAIL_ANS. Oh, sorry.

588 *Mr. Hudson. Okay --

589 *Mr. Landsman. I yield back.

590 *Mr. Hudson. -- the gentleman yields back. Does anyone
591 else seek recognition?

592 *Mr. Landsman. Russell was texting me.

593 *Mr. Hudson. The question now occurs on adopting H.R.
594 1731.

595 All those in favor, say aye.

596 Those opposed, no.

597 The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted and forwarded
598 to the full committee.

599 The chair calls up H.R. 6046 and asks the clerk to
600 report.

601 *The Clerk. H.R. 6046, a bill to amend the
602 Communications Act of --

603 *Mr. Hudson. Without objection, the first reading of
604 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
605 amendment at any time.

606 So ordered.

607 [The bill follows:]

608

609 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

610

611 *Mr. Landsman. Mr. Chair?

612 *Mr. Hudson. For what purpose does the gentleman seek
613 to be recognized?

614 *Mr. Landsman. I have an amendment in the nature of a
615 substitution at the desk labeled RAIL_ANS_01.

616 *Mr. Hudson. The clerk will report the amendment.

617 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
618 H.R. 6046 offered by Mr. Landsman. Strike all after the
619 enacting clause and insert the following.

620 *Mr. Hudson. Without objection, the reading of the
621 amendment is dispensed with.

622 [The amendment of Mr. Landsman follows:]

623

624 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

625

626 *Mr. Hudson. And the gentleman is recognized for five
627 minutes in support of the amendment.

628 *Mr. Landsman. Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I don't see
629 Mr. Joyce, but I want to thank Mr. Joyce and Mr. Peters for
630 their work.

631 This is a bill amending a bill that we passed in
632 September. We worked with their teams and the committee
633 staff to make this bill just a little bit better and a little
634 bit more bipartisan, and so I am really encouraged by the
635 work that everyone put into this.

636 This is the Broadband and Telecommunications RAIL Act,
637 and it will make it that much more -- the pursuing of
638 broadband that much faster, much more faster and less
639 expensive.

640 So if you remember, this goes back to the intersection
641 between the public right of way roads and railroads and these
642 tracks. And for years laying broadband has been obstructed
643 and delayed because these railroad companies say, "Well, this
644 is our property and so you are going to have to go through
645 our process.'" And often times it is cumbersome, it is a ton
646 of work and a ton of money. And again, it just leads to
647 delays and a greater expense for broadband providers and the
648 folks that they serve.

649 The changes here protect labor and ensure public safety.
650 And so I just again want to thank my colleagues for doing

651 this and just say, before I yield back, that this is a moment
652 where both sides, I believe, want to get the country building
653 again, whether that is housing or energy -- or, in this case,
654 broadband -- and this bill, along with the others, will get
655 us there. But I am grateful to my team and Mr. Joyce and Mr.
656 Peters for working with us to make this bill better.

657 And with that I yield back.

658 *Mr. Hudson. I thank the gentleman. I now recognize
659 myself for five minutes to speak on H.R. 6046.

660 I want to thank my colleagues, Representative Joyce,
661 Representative Landsman, and Representative Peters, for their
662 many months of work on this legislation. While more remains
663 to be done, today's subcommittee markup and the ANS that will
664 be offered by Representative Landsman demonstrates our
665 commitment to continuing working with our colleagues across
666 the aisle ahead of a full committee markup.

667 With that I yield back. Is there any other discussion
668 on the amendment?

669 For what purpose does the gentleman from California wish
670 to be recognized?

671 *Mr. Peters. I move to strike the last word on the ANS.

672 *Mr. Hudson. The gentleman is recognized for five
673 minutes to speak on the amendment.

674 *Mr. Peters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am also proud
675 to co-lead the Broadband and Telecommunications RAIL Act with

676 my colleagues, Representatives Joyce and Landsman.

677 We have heard that when broadband companies try to build
678 out telecommunications infrastructure along railroad
679 crossings, the costs and approval times skyrocket, and that
680 is not acceptable. The high costs and lengthy delays are
681 keeping our constituents from connecting to the Internet, and
682 only furthers the digital divide in America. To streamline
683 the deployment process between broadband providers and
684 railroad carriers, this bill will implement firm timelines,
685 conflict resolution processes, and fee scales to help the
686 Federal Communications Commission move faster in support of
687 the public interest. It would outline the responsibilities
688 of each party and give the FCC authority where it previously
689 had none. So this bill solves a real problem we were facing
690 in helping our constituents get connected to the Internet.

691 In the age of technology it is more important than ever
692 for Americans to be connected as quickly as possible so they
693 can access employment opportunities, education, telehealth
694 care. And by streamlining broadband deployment and speeding
695 up access to fast, reliable, and affordable Internet
696 connection, we can work towards bridging the digital divide,
697 ensuring equal access to educational and economic
698 opportunities.

699 So thanks again to my colleagues. I look forward to
700 working with the subcommittee and the full committee as we

701 move toward markup and to the floor. I appreciate the work,
702 and I yield back.

703 *Mr. Hudson. I thank the gentleman. Is there any
704 further discussion on the amendment?

705 Seeing not, all in favor of the amendment shall signify
706 by saying aye.

707 All opposed, nay.

708 The ayes have it and the amendment is agreed to.

709 Does anyone seek to be recognized on the bill?

710 The question now occurs on adopting H.R. 6046, as
711 amended.

712 All those in favor, say aye.

713 Those -- all opposed, no.

714 The ayes have it. The bill is adopted and forwarded to
715 the full committee.

716 The chair calls up H.R. 2289 and asks the clerk to
717 report.

718 *The Clerk. H.R. 2289, a bill to provide that an
719 eligible facilities request under --

720 *Mr. Hudson. Without objection, the first reading of
721 the bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
722 amendment at any time.

723 So ordered.

724

725

726 [The bill follows:]

727

728 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

729

730 *Mr. Hudson. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
731 bill?

732 For what purpose does the gentleman from Georgia seek to
733 be recognized?

734 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an
735 amendment in the nature of a substitute at the desk.

736 *Mr. Hudson. The clerk will report the amendment.

737 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
738 H.R. 2289 offered by Mr. Carter of Georgia. Strike all after
739 the enacting clause --

740 *Mr. Hudson. Without objection, the amendment is
741 dispensed with.

742 [The amendment of Mr. Carter of Georgia follows:]

743

744 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

745

746 *Mr. Hudson. And the gentleman is recognized for five
747 minutes in support of the amendment.

748 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr.
749 Chairman, I would like to thank all my colleagues for their
750 work to lead on different solutions to lower barriers and
751 streamline the processes for deploying broadband to all
752 Americans.

753 This amendment includes several provisions authored by
754 my Republican colleagues addressing everything from duplicate
755 or unnecessary environmental reviews, limiting unnecessary
756 application fees, and providing certainty on the timelines
757 for reviewing permitting requests.

758 At our legislative hearing we heard from experts that
759 broadband permitting remains a barrier to closing the digital
760 divide. Today we are taking an important step to unleash
761 innovation and turbocharge public and private investment.

762 First, my amendment would streamline the process for
763 requesting approvals to deploy new broadband infrastructure,
764 including wireless towers or structures, fixed broadband and
765 fiber optic cables, and cable service provider requests. The
766 amendment would require that application fees to review
767 permitting applications are based on actual and direct cost,
768 that providers receive a response within a reasonable amount
769 of time, and that there are clear rules of the road for when
770 these timeframes begin and end. And in cases where a

771 broadband provider thinks they were wrongfully denied the
772 ability to provide service, they can receive relief so that
773 they can focus their time and energy on what matters most:
774 connecting all Americans.

775 Second, my amendment will streamline the process for
776 requesting approval to upgrade existing infrastructure,
777 including adding 5G to existing 4G towers, upgrading old
778 copper lines to fiber, or deploying Open RAN-compatible
779 technologies that will help trusted equipment vendors develop
780 an alternative to Chinese vendors like Huawei and ZTE. These
781 changes will help limit the environmental impact of needing
782 new infrastructure by encouraging providers to upgrade
783 facilities in areas that have already undergone an
784 environmental or historical preservation review.

785 Finally, my amendment will ensure that environmental
786 reviews for broadband deployments are proportional to the
787 level of deployment taking place in cases where broadband
788 providers are simply upgrading infrastructures and right-of-
789 ways that have already been disturbed by other communications
790 or electric utility infrastructure, an environmental review
791 has already been undertaken, and the land has already been
792 disturbed. My amendment would remove the requirement to
793 undergo these reviews where broadband infrastructure is being
794 deployed entirely in an area for which a review has already
795 been conducted and infrastructure already exists. This

796 includes waiving the environmental reviews to replace
797 untrusted equipment that is eligible for reimbursement under
798 the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act. This
799 straightforward reform will remove a key barrier to broadband
800 deployment, especially on Federal lands where reviews can
801 take more than two years.

802 This amendment combines legislation led by every one of
803 my Republican colleagues on this committee, and I would like
804 to thank them for their thoughtful proposals to bring
805 affordable broadband to their communities quickly and ensure
806 that taxpayer dollars are not wasted on more red tape.

807 I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and I
808 yield back.

809 *Mr. Hudson. I thank the gentleman. Is there -- for
810 what purpose does the gentleman from California seek to be
811 recognized?

812 *Mr. Ruiz. I move to strike the last word.

813 *Mr. Hudson. The gentleman is recognized for five
814 minutes to speak on the amendment.

815 *Mr. Ruiz. Thank you. I just want to take a moment,
816 Mr. Chairman, to reflect on the timing of these discussions
817 and this amendment.

818 We are here in Native American Heritage Month, a time
819 when we honor the rich history, culture, and contributions of
820 tribal nations across the country. And yet some of these

821 provisions in the permitting bills we are considering today
822 in this amendment will allow exemptions to the National
823 Historic Preservation Act, exemptions that could put tribal
824 history, culture, sites, and sacred lands at risk. And there
825 is a troubling irony in that. On one hand, you celebrate and
826 acknowledge tribal heritage. On the other you are advancing
827 legislation that could erode the very history we claim to
828 honor.

829 Streamlining processes may be important, but it cannot
830 come at the cost of erasing history or undermining tribal
831 sovereignty. Tribal sovereignty is not just a legal concept.
832 It is a matter of fairness, justice, and respect for the
833 nation-to-nation relationship that defines our country. We
834 cannot in good conscience move forward with legislation that
835 impacts tribal lands while leaving tribal communities
836 underfunded, or stripping them of the authority to decide
837 their own future.

838 Honoring tribal nations means more than a post on social
839 media recognizing the month. It means action. It means
840 upholding their rights, respecting their history, and
841 ensuring that Federal programs are designed in partnership
842 with -- not imposed upon -- tribal communities. That is the
843 measure of true progress.

844 And I yield back.

845 *Mr. Hudson. I thank the gentleman. For what purpose

846 does the gentleman from Ohio seek to be recognized?

847 *Mr. Latta. Thank you, Mr. Chairman --

848 *Mr. Hudson. For what purpose --

849 *Mr. Latta. Strike the last word.

850 *Mr. Hudson. Then you are recognized for five minutes
851 to speak on the amendment.

852 *Mr. Latta. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the
853 gentleman from Georgia for leading this essential
854 legislation, which is an important step in ensuring that
855 every American has access to high-speed broadband. It makes
856 common-sense reforms that will make permitting applications
857 less costly, more timely, and more predictable, which is
858 essential to closing the digital divide.

859 Included in this ANS is my legislation, the Wireless
860 Leadership Act, which will help expedite the deployment of
861 wireless infrastructure. This legislation will set timelines
862 that state and local governments must abide by when reviewing
863 applications, and create a deemed grant remedy for reviews
864 that miss deadlines. It would also reduce the cost of
865 deployment by limiting the fees of those governments that can
866 charge -- those governments can charge for reviewing
867 applications and using the right of way.

868 We need to make sure new networks can be built in a
869 timely and cost-efficient manner, and broadband permitting
870 reform is the missing piece of the puzzle to ensure that

871 every American has access to the Internet. I am pleased we
872 are forwarding this legislation to the full committee.

873 And I yield back the balance of my time.

874 *Mr. Hudson. I thank the gentleman. For what purpose
875 does the gentleman from California seek to be recognized?

876 *Mr. Peters. Mr. Chairman, I would strike the last
877 word.

878 *Mr. Hudson. The gentleman is recognized to speak on
879 the amendment for five minutes.

880 *Mr. Peters. I just want to say I think it is
881 unfortunate that we are bunching all of this together and
882 don't have a discussion about it. There is much in here that
883 I think is consistent with what I am trying to do on energy
884 and permit reform, and there is efforts here to reduce
885 duplicative review. And I would just call out a few that I
886 am interested in: the Wildfire Communications Resiliency
887 Act; the 3960, the Connecting Community Post Disaster Act;
888 the 5264, the SPEED for Broadband Infrastructure Act; the
889 TRUSTED Broadband Networks Act; the GRANTED Act, all really
890 interesting ideas, I think are consistent with principles
891 that I could support. Unfortunately, because we are, I
892 guess, jammed for time we can't discuss these individually,
893 we are not going to have a discussion about those.

894 But I do support getting rid of duplicative review. I
895 think there are some things in this package worth supporting,

896 but unfortunately it is mixed with a lot of stuff that I
897 think I object to, and I look forward to working with the
898 committee on finding those areas where we can agree and move
899 forward.

900 And I yield back.

901 *Mr. Hudson. I thank the gentleman. For what purpose
902 does the gentleman from Florida seek to be recognized?

903 *Mr. Dunn. I move to strike the last word, Mr. --

904 *Mr. Hudson. The gentleman is recognized for five
905 minutes to speak on the amendment.

906 *Mr. Dunn. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I urge support for
907 the 28 permitting reform bills we are marking up today.
908 These bills are crucial for building commercial and Federal
909 broadband capabilities.

910 If we want to secure our technological dominance on a
911 global scale, we must follow through for our communications
912 industry, for national security, and American families.
913 Luckily, we have succeeded this year in a few major ways. We
914 have delivered a huge win to the American people with the One
915 Big, Beautiful Bill Act, unleashing over 800 megahertz of
916 spectrum and securing major tax extension benefits to assist
917 industry in achieving these goals. However, we need to
918 follow through on these promises by enacting permitting
919 reform. Without permitting reform, none of the
920 infrastructure needed to connect Floridians who have been

921 waiting for years will be a reality.

922 Aside from government funding, we have passed
923 specifically for broadband programs like \$42 billion for the
924 BEAD program. One of the most prominent permitting actions
925 we have taken was in 2018, when Congress passed the MOBILE
926 NOW Act, which established a 270-day deadline for executive
927 agencies to grant right of way or leases to install,
928 construct, modify, or maintain communications facilities on
929 Federal property. But 270 days seems like an exorbitant
930 amount of time to replace -- replace -- critical
931 infrastructure after a hurricane or natural disaster.

932 My bill, Connecting the Communities Post Disaster Act,
933 would help resolve these processing and permitting hurdles.
934 It will accelerate replacing and improving communication
935 facilities in presidentially-declared disaster areas. And I
936 am confident we have solutions in these bills today to
937 address the much-needed updates in our current laws on
938 broadband infrastructure and deployment.

939 I urge support for my colleagues on both sides to pass
940 these critical bills, and I yield back the remainder of my
941 time.

942 *Mr. Hudson. I thank the gentleman. For what purpose
943 does the gentlelady from Michigan seeks to be recognized?

944 *Mrs. Dingell. I move to strike the last word, Mr. --

945 *Mr. Hudson. The gentlelady is recognized for five

946 minutes to speak on the amendment.

947 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

948 I am very concerned about what this bill does to the
949 National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. I am a staunch
950 defender of the environment, and many of you know how hard
951 the man who this room is named after worked on NEPA as an
952 original author and having it signed into law. Today NEPA
953 remains one of our nation's strongest tools to ensure
954 communities have meaningful input on major Federal actions.
955 And that is why I am deeply concerned with title 3 section
956 301 of this amendment, which would exempt any covered project
957 from both NEPA and the National Historic Preservation Act.

958 Section 301 says that any Federal authorization for a
959 covered project cannot be considered a major Federal action
960 under NEPA, and cannot be considered an undertaking under
961 NHPA. In practice that means no environmental review and no
962 historic preservation review, full stop. And the definition
963 of a covered project is incredibly broad. It includes the
964 mounting, the installation, or modification of wireless
965 facilities, wireline deployments on existing infrastructure,
966 small cells, and nearly all work in public rights of way. It
967 also includes any deployment in a brownfield, which should
968 alarm anyone whose community has ever dealt with
969 environmental cleanups or Superfund sites, something
970 southeast Michigan knows too well. These are areas where

971 vulnerable communities already bear the brunt of pollution
972 and climate risk. Under this legislation, broadband
973 infrastructure in brownfields would totally bypass
974 environmental review.

975 Covered projects also include post-disaster rebuilds,
976 equipment swaps, removing insecure equipment, and projects
977 under FCC geographic licenses. Even significant
978 modifications like antenna swaps, equipment upgrades, or
979 expansion of existing towers are already largely exempt under
980 existing categorical exclusion parameters. In effect, almost
981 every routine wireless and wireline deployment already skips
982 any serious level of NEPA review altogether.

983 NEPA's directive is straightforward: the Federal
984 Government must consider how a project will affect the
985 environment, and the people impacted should have a real
986 chance to weigh in. That includes examining climate impacts,
987 environmental justice concerns, and effects on culturally or
988 historically sensitive sites. Eliminating those reviews
989 means eliminating the voices of frontline communities, many
990 of which have been ignored or overburdened for too long. I
991 believe we should have bipartisan conversations about smart
992 and targeted permitting reform.

993 And I have said before I welcome an honest conversation
994 about long-term NEPA modernization that protects communities
995 while allowing projects to move efficiently, but this

996 proposal takes the wrong approach. It doesn't streamline
997 NEPA; it guts it. We should not have to choose between
998 deploying broadband and protecting bedrock environmental
999 laws. We can and should do both. What we cannot do is adopt
1000 exemptions that silence communities and undermine decades of
1001 environmental protection. For these reasons I urge my
1002 colleagues to reject this ANS and oppose this legislation.

1003 Thank you, and I yield back.

1004 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you.

1005 For what purpose does the gentleman from New Jersey seek
1006 to be recognized?

1007 *Mr. Kean. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
1008 word.

1009 *Mr. Hudson. The gentleman is recognized for five
1010 minutes to speak on the amendment.

1011 *Mr. Kean. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1012 I am glad to see this committee advancing common-sense
1013 legislation to streamline and standardize permitting for
1014 critical wireless infrastructure that we all rely on. With
1015 these reforms we can both improve inefficient processes and
1016 clear bottlenecks while respecting the rights of local,
1017 state, and Federal stakeholders to make their voices heard.

1018 We also have a real opportunity to find consensus on
1019 ways to modernize and improve efficiency within Federal
1020 agencies.

1021 In addition to many important measures in this markup
1022 that has -- led by colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I
1023 have introduced the Enhancing Administrative Reviews
1024 Broadband Deployment Act, which will direct a review of
1025 administrative barriers to timely reviews of Federal
1026 permitting applications and to propose improvements. This
1027 bill sits before the House Natural Resources Committee. I
1028 look forward to continuing this timely conversation on how we
1029 can drive a whole-of-government approach to improving
1030 efficiency within our government.

1031 I support this amendment and I yield back.

1032 *Mr. Hudson. For what purpose does the gentlelady from
1033 California seek to be recognized?

1034 *Ms. Barragan. I move to strike the last word.

1035 *Mr. Hudson. The gentlelady is recognized for five
1036 minutes to speak on the amendment.

1037 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to
1038 highlight the most dangerous consequences of this bill.

1039 The Republican broadband permitting bill forces state,
1040 local, and tribal governments into rigid Federal deadlines
1041 called shot clocks. Miss the deadline and the project
1042 automatically moves forward, even if safety inspections,
1043 environmental reviews, or cultural protections are
1044 incomplete. Make no mistake, this is not reform. This is a
1045 blueprint for rushed decisions, unsafe construction, and

1046 communities being cut out of critical decisions that affect
1047 their broadband access and safety.

1048 Broadband deployment depends on officials who know their
1049 communities and local impacts. But this bill punishes them
1050 with rigid deadlines that ignore local realities. A county
1051 of one staff member reviewing dozens of applications or a
1052 city managing wildfire risk and underground utilities would
1053 have to meet the same timeline as every other community. If
1054 they can't keep up, projects move forward automatically
1055 before safety inspections are done, before environmental
1056 risks are reviewed, before local input is considered. That
1057 is dangerous and not the turbocharge that is needed.

1058 For tribal nations, the stakes are even higher. They
1059 are sovereign governments, and the United States has a legal
1060 and moral trust responsibility to protect their lands and
1061 resources. And this bill forces tribal governments into
1062 rigid deadlines, just as it does to states and localities.
1063 THPOs, or Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, review
1064 projects for impacts on sacred sites, cultural resources, and
1065 historic landmarks. These offices are already under-staffed
1066 and under-funded by Congress, yet this bill forces them to
1067 meet impossible deadlines, leaving them no choice but to
1068 approve projects on a rushed schedule or watch them
1069 automatically move forward without tribal input. By imposing
1070 restrictive shot clocks on tribal nations and THPOs, this

1071 bill pushes tribes out of the review process, violates the
1072 Federal trust, and puts tribal communities at risk.

1073 Congress could fix the real problem by fully funding
1074 THPOs, yet Republicans refuse to invest. And this is nothing
1075 new. The Trump Administration and congressional Republicans
1076 have consistently failed tribal communities. As we speak,
1077 Trump's NTIA is hoarding nearly \$1 billion in tribal
1078 broadband connectivity grants that Congress approved, funds
1079 that could connect thousands of unserved native homes. That
1080 is unacceptable.

1081 Rushing tribal consultation may satisfy the majority's
1082 political calendar, but it betrays our nation's obligations.
1083 Across the board, state, local, and tribal, these shot clocks
1084 are shortcuts, not solutions. They do not build safe
1085 infrastructure. They do not expand broadband access
1086 responsibly. And the people who will pay the price are the
1087 communities we represent.

1088 I yield back.

1089 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you. For what purpose does the
1090 gentleman from California seek to be recognized?

1091 *Mr. Obernolte. I move to strike the last word.

1092 *Mr. Hudson. The gentleman is recognized for five
1093 minutes to speak on the amendment.

1094 *Mr. Obernolte. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1095 I know we all share a commitment to ensuring that

1096 America remains on the forefront of information technology.
1097 And as part of that mission it is critical that we continue
1098 to support and find ways to increase Americans' access to
1099 broadband Internet. And that is a specific problem in rural
1100 parts of America like the one that I represent.

1101 It surprises a lot of people to find out that my
1102 district has 78 percent of its land mass -- that is, Federal
1103 land -- managed by agencies like the Department of the
1104 Interior and the Department of Agriculture. And those are
1105 the agencies that are responsible for reviewing and approving
1106 applications to deploy broadband, and specifically broadband
1107 connectivity across Federal property. But unfortunately,
1108 those agencies have been historically very slow to approve
1109 applications for leases on that Federal land.

1110 So we here in Congress have tried to address that
1111 problem in the past by directing those agencies to develop a
1112 master contract to government to govern the placement of
1113 broadband infrastructure on property owned by the Federal
1114 Government. We have told them to use a common application
1115 form and we have established a 270-day clock on Federal
1116 agencies to process applications to place communications
1117 facilities on Federal property.

1118 Now, I want to emphasize this because we have heard some
1119 opposition to this part of the bill today, that that shot
1120 clock is not adequate. Folks, that is already Federal law,

1121 that 270 days. These agencies are already required to comply
1122 with that. But unfortunately, there is no consequence when
1123 they fail to comply with that shot clock, and that is why
1124 this action is needed.

1125 So I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia for
1126 including my bill in this package today, H.R. 1836, the
1127 Granting Remaining Applications Not Treated Effectively or
1128 Delayed -- or we call it the GRANTED Act -- which creates a
1129 deemed granted remedy for applications to place
1130 infrastructure on Federal lands that remain pending after
1131 that 270 days. So basically, we are just trying to
1132 incentivize these agencies to make sure those applications
1133 get processed in a timely manner. And there are exceptions
1134 for various incomplete applications and other scenarios that
1135 might hamper that effort.

1136 So I think this is going to meaningfully increase
1137 Americans' access to broadband Internet by streamlining this
1138 permitting process. This is something that has been a
1139 priority for the Administration. I think it is a priority
1140 for folks in rural America like the ones I represent. And I
1141 want to thank you for including that in this markup today and
1142 urge an aye vote on the underlying ANS.

1143 I yield back.

1144 *Mr. Hudson. I thank the gentleman. Is there any
1145 further discussion on the amendment in the nature of a

1146 substitute?

1147 For purpose does the gentlelady from Florida -- no?

1148 For what purpose does the gentleman from Virginia seek
1149 to be recognized?

1150 *Mr. Griffith. I would like to speak to the bill.

1151 *Mr. Hudson. The gentleman is recognized for five
1152 minutes to speak on the amendment in the nature of a
1153 substitute.

1154 *Mr. Griffith. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate it and I just
1155 want to clear up a couple of things.

1156 I didn't hear anybody on the section that is included in
1157 the ANS that is H.R. 278. I didn't hear any objection on the
1158 fee part, and that has to be justified, of course, by the
1159 incumbent pole holder or company. But there were real
1160 concerns that seemed to indicate that the shot clock -- which
1161 I am a big fan of, generally -- that the shot clock would
1162 force automatic approval. That is not actually accurate. I
1163 mean, it could be if there is not a legitimate reason for
1164 turning down the application. But nothing in the bill says
1165 that a local government or other entity -- state, local
1166 government, Indian nation -- couldn't turn down the proposal
1167 if there were legitimate health and safety concerns.

1168 And I heard somebody say that, you know, it must be
1169 approved rapidly. No. If there is a legitimate concern, the
1170 only thing this bill changes is to -- when you turn the

1171 person or the entity down to do broadband, you have to
1172 explain that in writing. So legitimate concerns, Mr.
1173 Chairman, can be addressed because you turn them down and
1174 then the company has the ability to go back and work on
1175 solving those health concerns, solving those issues that the
1176 local government thought was sufficient to turn them down on,
1177 and resolve those and then re-apply.

1178 The shot clock, though, is to keep out some entities.
1179 And it is not a majority, Mr. Chairman, but there are some
1180 entities that are using this as a backdoor way of denying.
1181 They just never make an answer. And you can't get a
1182 resolution to the issue if you never get an answer. You keep
1183 it out there, you keep spending the money on it, you keep
1184 hoping that something will work out. You don't have the
1185 ability to go -- if there is not a reasonable concern, you
1186 don't have the ability to go and get an arbiter, an
1187 arbitrator, i.e. the court systems, to rule on whether or not
1188 it is a reasonable concern or a reasonable objection. And
1189 you are just caught in limbo. And that is the purpose of the
1190 shot clock.

1191 But I don't want anybody to think that this bill would
1192 require an approval when there are health and safety
1193 concerns, and that is why I felt compelled to speak up, Mr.
1194 Chairman. And there may very well be some legitimate issues.
1195 I don't deny that. But there is a mechanism to make that

1196 work, and this bill does not change that. It just means you
1197 have got to work on it in a different and faster process.

1198 I yield back.

1199 *Mr. Hudson. I thank the gentleman. Is there any
1200 further discussion on the amendment in the nature of a
1201 substitute?

1202 For what purpose does the gentleman from New Jersey seek
1203 recognition?

1204 *Mr. Menendez. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
1205 word.

1206 *Mr. Hudson. The gentleman is recognized for five
1207 minutes to speak on the amendment in the nature of a
1208 substitute.

1209 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you, Chairman. I just want to get
1210 at two of the things that we are discussing today.

1211 One is a conversation around efficiency. And the part
1212 that I struggle with is, like so many of my colleagues,
1213 including my colleague from California, Mr. Peters, we want
1214 to engage in that conversation. We just feel that in this
1215 Congress Republicans lack the authority on efficiency. We
1216 saw early on in this Administration DOGE cut through Federal
1217 Government in the idea of the advancement of efficiency,
1218 which they completely failed at. Right? We fired Federal
1219 workers, RIF'd Federal workers. We didn't make government
1220 more efficient, right?

1221 The whole point of reconciliation and cutting over \$880
1222 billion from health care was fraud, waste, and abuse, but all
1223 you did was take \$1 trillion out of Medicaid for people
1224 across the country. That is not efficiency. And I think
1225 that there is not much credibility, which makes it hard to
1226 support the bills that we are considering today.

1227 And when you talk about a shot clock, right, and
1228 government having to act, that strikes me as really ironic,
1229 considering that House leadership had us out of session for
1230 over 54 days. We could have been here working on a number of
1231 issues, including the ones that are before us, but instead
1232 House leadership chose to keep us in our districts. So I
1233 just don't think there is much credibility to have this
1234 conversation and to take your word at what these bills will
1235 achieve. And so therefore, I will be voting no and I urge my
1236 colleagues to, as well.

1237 I yield back.

1238 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you. For what purpose does the
1239 gentleman from South Carolina seek to be recognized?

1240 *Mr. Fry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you --

1241 *Mr. Hudson. Oh, the gentleman is recognized for five
1242 minutes to speak on the amendment.

1243 *Mr. Fry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to Mr.
1244 Carter for bringing this package together to modernize
1245 broadband permitting and finally get deployment moving.

1246 I would like to highlight my own bill contained within
1247 the ANS, which is the TRUSTED Broadband Networks Act. Across
1248 the country, small and rural broadband providers are working
1249 to remove telecommunications equipment that the Federal
1250 Government has already deemed to be a national security risk.
1251 Providers are ready to do it, but the Federal red tape is
1252 slowing them down not for installing new equipment, but for
1253 removing the insecure equipment we have already deemed to be
1254 dangerous. This makes no sense.

1255 If something in our networks is a known national
1256 security risk, it shouldn't take months of environmental and
1257 historic preservation paperwork to remove it. My bill cuts
1258 that delay. When a provider removes insecure equipment and
1259 replaces it with trusted equipment, Federal agencies should
1260 not treat that swap as a significant Federal action that
1261 triggers lengthy permitting reviews. That is it. It is
1262 narrow, it is targeted, and it only applies to projects where
1263 equipment has been removed and has already been flagged under
1264 Federal law as insecure.

1265 This legislation is especially important in small, rural
1266 networks that serve communities like those I represent in
1267 South Carolina. These providers don't have spare crews
1268 waiting around. They are trying to comply with Federal
1269 requirements and protect their customers. They should not be
1270 punished with more delays by our Federal Government for

1271 trying to do the right thing based on standards that the
1272 Federal Government has set.

1273 Every month of delay is another month that we allow
1274 adversary-linked technology to sit in American networks.
1275 This bill puts national security ahead of bureaucracy,
1276 ensures rip-and-replace happens on the timeline Congress
1277 intended, and helps rural America stay connected and secure.

1278 I am proud of this legislation. I am proud that it is
1279 part of this package today, and I strongly urge my colleagues
1280 to support it.

1281 With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

1282 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you. Is there any further
1283 discussion on the amendment in the nature of substitute?

1284 For what purpose does the gentlelady from Indiana seek
1285 to be recognized?

1286 *Mrs. Houchin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
1287 strike the last word.

1288 *Mr. Hudson. The gentlelady is recognized for five
1289 minutes to speak on the amendment in the nature of a
1290 substitute.

1291 *Mrs. Houchin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking
1292 Member Matsui. I am speaking today in support of my bill,
1293 which is included in the ANS, the CABLE Competition Act.

1294 One of the clearest barriers to service and lower prices
1295 isn't technology; it is delay. Across southeastern Indiana,

1296 families are frustrated by long waits and -- for promised
1297 Internet upgrades and better service, especially when a new
1298 cable operator takes over.

1299 Consumers shouldn't have to wait months or years for the
1300 price competition and improvements they were promised. That
1301 is what the Consumer Access to Broadband for Local Economies
1302 and Competition Act, the CABLE Competition Act, fixes. It is
1303 simple, pro-consumer, and common sense. If a new operator
1304 agrees to honor the existing franchise terms, the transfer
1305 proceeds. No duplicative approvals, no moving the goal posts
1306 after investments have been committed. This aligns with
1307 Republicans' longstanding objective of removing unreasonable
1308 barriers to broadband deployment. It doesn't spend new money
1309 or build a new bureaucracy. It simply provides clear rules
1310 and predictable timelines so private investment can do its
1311 job.

1312 The bottom line is competition lowers prices and
1313 certainly attracts capital. The CABLE Competition Act
1314 delivers both, allowing consumers to keep the contract, cut
1315 the delays, and delivering families better service at a
1316 better price.

1317 I urge my colleagues to support the amendment in the
1318 nature of a substitute which includes my bill, the CABLE
1319 Competition Act, and I yield back.

1320 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you. Is there any further

1321 discussion on the amendment?

1322 For what purpose does the gentleman from Texas seek
1323 recognition?

1324 *Mr. Goldman. I move to strike the last word.

1325 *Mr. Hudson. The gentleman is recognized for five
1326 minutes to speak on the amendment.

1327 *Mr. Goldman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My bill, which
1328 was brought into this bill, the SPEED for Broadband
1329 Infrastructure Act, is a very simple bill.

1330 For too long access to high-speed Internet in rural
1331 communities and military bases has been held back by Federal
1332 red tape. My bill streamlines the permitting -- something we
1333 have all been asked to do -- the permitting process so we can
1334 deliver faster and more reliable Internet access across the
1335 nation, spurring economic growth and strengthening our
1336 national security.

1337 And I yield back the rest of my time. Thank you, Mr.
1338 Chairman and my colleagues.

1339 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you. Is there any further
1340 discussion?

1341 For what purpose does the gentlelady from North Dakota
1342 seek recognition?

1343 *Mrs. Fedorchak. I seek to strike the last word.

1344 *Mr. Hudson. The gentlelady is recognized for five
1345 minutes to speak on the amendment in the nature of a

1346 substitute.

1347 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am proud
1348 to speak in support of my bill which is also part of this
1349 overall package, the CABLE Expansion Act.

1350 Across rural America providers face costly,
1351 unpredictable delays when trying to delay, deploy, or upgrade
1352 broadband infrastructure. These setbacks stall projects and
1353 widen the digital divide. For example, just last week I was
1354 visiting with Chairwoman Lonna Jackson Street of the Spirit
1355 Lake Tribe. She talked about the challenges with BIA
1356 permitting delays for broadband, and the impact that has on
1357 growing jobs and opportunities in -- for her tribal members.

1358 Right now an operator can submit an application and wait
1359 months, sometimes more than a year, without a response.
1360 There is often no firm timeline for local review, no uniform
1361 requirement for a written decision, and no guarantee that
1362 fees reflect actual direct costs. At the same time, local
1363 governments want to protect their rights of way and hold
1364 companies accountable. The current system isn't serving
1365 anyone. We need a permitting process that is, one, built for
1366 modern broadband; two, preserves local authority; and three,
1367 prevents unnecessary barriers that slow down development and
1368 drive up costs.

1369 My bill, the CABLE Expansion Act, strikes that balance.
1370 It streamlines the permitting process while preserving local

1371 authority over siting facilities for cable service. It
1372 establishes a responsibility to respond for franchise
1373 authorities so applications can't be ignored indefinitely.
1374 Additionally, it sets clear timelines for decisions: 150
1375 days for new broadband infrastructure and 90 days for
1376 upgrades to existing facilities. Those are very reasonable.

1377 If an application isn't approved or denied with written
1378 reasons within those timelines, the request is automatically
1379 deemed granted. But rest assured, folks can engage, provide
1380 the written reasons within those timelines, and be heard.
1381 This will help keep projects moving and prevent endless red
1382 tape. Any denial must be backed by evidence made public and
1383 evaluated in a non-discriminatory manner.

1384 And lastly, it brings transparency to local fees by
1385 requiring them to be based solely on actual direct costs.

1386 Importantly, these improvements apply not only going
1387 forward, but also retroactively to pending applications.
1388 Communities that have been stuck in limbo for years can
1389 finally get answers and get broadband infrastructure built.

1390 By creating a fair process that strengthens deployment
1391 and lowers costs, my bill will help make serious progress in
1392 closing the digital divide. I urge my colleagues to support
1393 this bill and the ANS.

1394 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

1395 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you.

1396 For what purpose does the gentlelady from California,
1397 the ranking member, seek recognition?

1398 *Ms. Matsui. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
1399 desk.

1400 *Mr. Hudson. The clerk will report the amendment.
1401 Could you specify the amendment?

1402 *Ms. Matsui. It BEAD_FUNDS_01.

1403 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
1404 a substitute to H.R. 2289.

1405 *Mr. Hudson. Without objection, the reading of the
1406 amendment is dispensed with.

1407 [The amendment of Ms. Matsui follows:]

1408

1409 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1410

1411 *Mr. Hudson. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
1412 minutes in support of the amendment.

1413 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Connecting every
1414 community to affordable, high-quality broadband has to stay
1415 at the heart of this committee's work.

1416 My amendment is simple. None of the hyper-partisan
1417 Republican permitting provisions in this bill would take
1418 effect until all BEAD funds are released to the states and
1419 expanded.

1420 This bill is a distraction from the real roadblocks to
1421 affordable broadband deployment: the Trump Administration
1422 delays and gutting of Federal broadband funding. Instead of
1423 mandating arbitrary permitting deadlines and bulldozing over
1424 local expertise, we should finish the job Congress already
1425 started and see that Federal broadband dollars actually reach
1426 the communities we promise to connect.

1427 Broadband deployment experts have been clear. The main
1428 reason companies don't build in certain areas is that it is
1429 not profitable. BEAD changes that by making these projects
1430 worth doing financially, not by injecting a grab bag of
1431 partisan permitting shortcuts. Congress made a once-in-a-
1432 generation investment through BEAD. States like California
1433 have spent years consulting communities, mapping gaps in
1434 coverage, and designing competitive processes so that dollars
1435 go where they need them most. They are ready to build.

1436 Instead of helping, President Trump's NTIA has moved the
1437 goal posts again and again. Guidance changes midstream,
1438 approvals are rescinded, and state plans are sent back to the
1439 drawing board while Republicans look the other way and blame
1440 permitting. That chaos has consequences. It means families
1441 go another school year without reliable Internet, clinics
1442 can't support telehealth, small businesses in my district
1443 still can't compete online.

1444 In my district local partners have trained community-
1445 based organizations to serve as digital navigators, ready to
1446 help families sign up for low-cost coverage, low-cost service
1447 devices, and skills training. But without BEAD deployment
1448 they are standing there with people who want to get online
1449 but have no reliable connection to offer them. Sacramento
1450 State has used a Biden-era NTIA Connecting Minority
1451 Communities grant to help connect more than 3,000 residents.
1452 That grant ends this month. And without BEAD moving forward,
1453 vital lifelines like this just disappear, leaving communities
1454 that finally got help stranded once again.

1455 For California and other states, the Trump
1456 Administration is compounding uncertainty by rescinding
1457 earlier approvals for BEAD's non-deployment funds without
1458 providing clear replacement guidance, leaving states and
1459 local partners in limbo without -- about planning, workforce,
1460 and the digital inclusion investments that make networks

1461 usable on day one.

1462 On top of that, the Trump NTIA is pressuring states to
1463 walk away from state net neutrality and affordability laws as
1464 a condition of BEAD funding for providers. Let me be clear.
1465 That is backwards. California fought for strong net
1466 neutrality and consumer protections because our residents
1467 demanded an open, affordable Internet. States should not be
1468 strong-armed into disregarding their consumer protection laws
1469 just to unlock Federal dollars.

1470 My amendment makes clear that we must get BEAD back on
1471 track. BEAD, not permitting rubber stamps, is the backbone
1472 of our national broadband strategy. It should come first,
1473 not last.

1474 I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and with
1475 that I yield back my time.

1476 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you. The -- I am sorry, would the
1477 gentlelady like to yield to the --

1478 *Ms. Matsui. Yes, I yield to the --

1479 *Mr. Hudson. -- ranking member of the full committee?

1480 *Voice. He is going to get his own --

1481 *Ms. Matsui. Oh, get your own time.

1482 *Mr. Hudson. Okay.

1483 *Ms. Matsui. Okay, I yield back.

1484 *Mr. Hudson. The gentlelady yields back. The chair now
1485 recognizes myself for five minutes to speak on the amendment.

1486 I want to thank the ranking member for the spirit in
1487 which she introduced this amendment. I know she and I are
1488 both very passionate about the need to get broadband deployed
1489 and to get these BEAD funds out as quickly as possible. But
1490 -- and to that point, great news. Today NTIA approved 18
1491 states' final proposals. So BEAD funds are on the way, they
1492 are out the door.

1493 But almost as importantly, because of innovation and
1494 efficiency eliminating burdensome rules and regulations that
1495 were part of the BEAD program, the Trump Administration has
1496 saved taxpayers \$6 billion on just these first 18 states. So
1497 not only is the money moving, but because we got rid of
1498 burdensome regulations and requirements, it is being done
1499 much more efficiently at a greater savings to the taxpayer.

1500 So, you know, the purpose of these funds was to close
1501 the digital divide. The purpose of this legislation is to
1502 ensure that the funds for broadband deployment aren't
1503 unnecessarily delayed further by bureaucratic red tape
1504 through the permitting process, delaying enactment of
1505 legislation that would speed up closing the digital divide
1506 until it -- funds to close the digital divide are dispersed
1507 is backwards in logic. The funds are being dispersed. We
1508 don't need the delay. What we need to do is make sure, as
1509 this money goes out the door, that it is very -- it is -- we
1510 are actually putting broadband in the ground and connecting

1511 people.

1512 And so I would urge my colleagues to oppose this
1513 amendment. And with that I will yield back my time. Is
1514 there any further discussion on the amendment?

1515 The chair recognizes the ranking member of the full
1516 committee, Mr. Pallone, for five minutes to speak on the
1517 amendment.

1518 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know.
1519 You are saying it is on the way and out the door, but that is
1520 not -- doesn't seem to be the case at all.

1521 After years of complaining about delays to critical
1522 broadband infrastructure funding, Republicans are now sitting
1523 on the largest investment in connectivity in our nation's
1524 history, and they are sitting on it. It is not out the door.
1525 Instead of getting these funds out the door and shovels in
1526 the ground as quickly as possible, the Trump Administration
1527 is micromanaging decisions made by state broadband offices.
1528 And some oversight, of course, is expected, even if
1529 Republicans spent the last three years making bad-faith
1530 characterizations about the Biden NTIA doing exactly that,
1531 consistent with the law.

1532 But the problem is the current involvement is not simply
1533 oversight. The Trump Administration is slowing down the
1534 program specifically to remove certain projects that would
1535 utilize more reliable broadband technologies, forcing states

1536 to scramble to find cheaper bills that use lower quality
1537 technologies and are more expensive for consumers. And there
1538 is no clear mechanism within the law that would explain this
1539 kind of behavior by the Assistant Secretary, as the law
1540 stipulates that all Americans be connected to broadband
1541 service using technologies that support high speeds and are
1542 scalable over time.

1543 But based on the public comments of Secretary Lutnick,
1544 it appears that the Commerce Department and NTIA are trying
1545 to run the BEAD program using cheap technologies in an
1546 attempt to net some level of savings to return to the
1547 Treasury. And this approach also raises significant concerns
1548 about the future of the BEAD funds specifically authorized
1549 and appropriated to cover what they call non-deployment uses.
1550 The Trump NTIA has essentially paused all work on non-
1551 deployment projects, and has left states with little insight
1552 as to how their non-deployment plans will factor into their
1553 larger efforts under the BEAD program.

1554 And non-deployment funds are a critical component of the
1555 BEAD program because they ensure that unserved and
1556 underserved communities getting this connectivity for the
1557 first time have the skills and training to adopt the service
1558 and use it safely and securely. And it should go without
1559 saying that the BEAD program, all 42.5 billion of it, was
1560 enacted specifically for the purposes and uses that are

1561 outlined in the law.

1562 Nowhere in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is there
1563 any allowance for the Secretary of Commerce or the NTIA
1564 administrator to impound BEAD funds in order to create the
1565 appearance of excess money. And that is why I support the
1566 Matsui amendment. By requiring the Commerce Department to
1567 release all funds consistent with the BIP (sic), with the
1568 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we can prevent Republicans in
1569 Washington from short-changing rural communities who have
1570 been left behind time and time again. And there is still
1571 time to save the BEAD program from the Trump Administration,
1572 which now appears on track to ruin its second broadband
1573 program in as many terms.

1574 So we -- look, Mr. Chairman, we have come too far and
1575 the stakes are too high to allow this funding to slip through
1576 our fingers now. And frankly, that is what is happening. It
1577 is not going out the door, it is slipping through our
1578 fingers.

1579 So with that I yield back.

1580 *Mr. Hudson. I thank the gentleman. Is there any
1581 further discussion on the amendment?

1582 For what purpose does the gentleman from Louisiana seek
1583 to be recognized?

1584 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I move to
1585 strike the last word.

1586 *Mr. Hudson. The gentleman is recognized for five
1587 minutes to speak on the amendment.

1588 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. We are in this committee
1589 today considering legislation to cut red tape, streamline
1590 requirements, and speed up connectivity projects. But the
1591 most significant delay in my home state of Louisiana has been
1592 the Trump Administration's rewriting of policies for
1593 broadband deployment funds.

1594 I want to thank Ranking Member Matsui for offering her
1595 amendment which would prevent the American Broadband
1596 Deployment Act from taking effect until the National
1597 Telecommunications and Information Administration has
1598 released all \$42 billion in funding for the Broadband Equity
1599 and Access Deployment (sic), or BEAD program, to states.
1600 This would ensure that NTIA prioritizes getting BEAD funding
1601 out as soon as possible to states, including Louisiana, and
1602 prevent any further delays from this happening.

1603 In January of this year Louisiana became the first state
1604 in the nation to secure Federal funding for our plan to
1605 deploy \$1.3 billion in BEAD funding. The state was ready to
1606 have shovels in the ground in March. Louisiana's plan was
1607 completed under Republican Governor Jeff Landry, who called
1608 this program "a generational investment that will create
1609 thousands of jobs, drive billions in economic growth, and
1610 transform Louisiana's communities in all 64 parishes."

1611 Louisiana's original plan included, among other things,
1612 using \$100 million non-deployment funds to improve access to
1613 telehealth in rural areas with limited nearby medical
1614 facilities. These funds would have been transformative for
1615 our state, especially now as the Republican big, ugly law
1616 will cause more rural hospitals and clinics to close.

1617 Unfortunately, the Trump Administration's overhaul of
1618 the BEAD program has upended these years of planning, forcing
1619 states like Louisiana to scrap their work and to start all
1620 over again. Due to the Administration's changes, the rural
1621 and underserved communities still waiting for reliable
1622 Internet will be disproportionately harmed. These changes
1623 prioritize short-term cost savings and the interests of Elon
1624 Musk over durable, future-proofed connectivity, leaving
1625 millions at risk of being locked into second tier
1626 technologies.

1627 Louisiana now faces new procedural hurdles and will
1628 (sic) further delay broadband expansion, forcing the state to
1629 wait again for Federal approvals and hope the Administration
1630 doesn't move the goal posts for this program again. The
1631 status of the state's non-deployment funding for rural
1632 telehealth and workforce development is now in jeopardy as
1633 well, as the state continues to wait for guidance from the
1634 Administration.

1635 I urge my colleagues to vote yes and support this

1636 amendment. NTIA must prioritize getting all of the BEAD
1637 funding out to states immediately. Saying that it is
1638 available and releasing it is two different things. Making
1639 sure that shovels are in the ground and people are actually
1640 working are two different things.

1641 Mr. Chairman and members, I implore you, please support
1642 this amendment that makes good sense, that really puts people
1643 back to work, and really does lessen the time to shorten the
1644 digital divide.

1645 And I yield back.

1646 *Mr. Hudson. I thank the gentleman. Is there any
1647 further discussion on the amendment?

1648 Seeing not, since there is no further discussion, the
1649 vote occurs on the amendment. The gentlelady has requested a
1650 roll call vote. The clerk will call the roll.

1651 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?

1652 *Mr. Allen. No.

1653 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

1654 Mr. Latta?

1655 *Mr. Latta. No.

1656 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

1657 Mr. Griffith?

1658 *Mr. Griffith. No.

1659 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

1660 Mr. Bilirakis?

1661 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

1662 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

1663 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

1664 [No response.]

1665 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?

1666 *Mr. Dunn. No.

1667 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

1668 Mr. Fulcher?

1669 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.

1670 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.

1671 Mr. Pfluger?

1672 *Mr. Pfluger. No.

1673 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.

1674 Mrs. Cammack?

1675 *Mrs. Cammack. No.

1676 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.

1677 Mr. Obernolte?

1678 *Mr. Obernolte. No.

1679 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.

1680 Mrs. Houchin?

1681 *Mrs. Houchin. No.

1682 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.

1683 Mr. Fry?

1684 *Mr. Fry. No.

1685 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.

1686 Mr. Kean?
1687 [No response.]
1688 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?
1689 *Mr. Goldman. No.
1690 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
1691 Mrs. Fedorchak?
1692 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
1693 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
1694 Mr. Guthrie?
1695 [No response.]
1696 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui?
1697 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
1698 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
1699 Mr. Soto?
1700 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
1701 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
1702 Ms. Clarke?
1703 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
1704 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
1705 Mr. Ruiz?
1706 [No response.]
1707 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters?
1708 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
1709 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
1710 Mrs. Dingell?

1711 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
1712 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
1713 Ms. Kelly?
1714 [No response.]
1715 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
1716 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
1717 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
1718 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
1719 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
1720 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
1721 Mr. Menendez?
1722 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
1723 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
1724 Mr. Landsman?
1725 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
1726 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
1727 Ms. McClellan?
1728 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
1729 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
1730 Ms. Castor?
1731 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
1732 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
1733 Mr. Pallone?
1734 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
1735 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

1736 Chairman Hudson?

1737 *Mr. Hudson. No.

1738 *The Clerk. Chairman Hudson votes no.

1739 *Mr. Hudson. How is Mr. Ruiz recorded?

1740 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz is not recorded.

1741 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

1742 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

1743 *Mr. Hudson. How is Mr. Carter recorded?

1744 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia is not recorded.

1745 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

1746 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

1747 *Mr. Hudson. How is Mr. Guthrie recorded?

1748 *The Chair. No.

1749 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie is not recorded.

1750 Mr. Guthrie votes no.

1751 *Mr. Hudson. Mr. Kean?

1752 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean is not recorded.

1753 *Mr. Kean. No.

1754 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.

1755 *Mr. Hudson. Anybody else?

1756 You want to change it?

1757 [Laughter.]

1758 *Mr. Hudson. This one is an easy one.

1759 The clerk will report the result.

1760 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 13

1761 ayes and 17 noes.

1762 *Mr. Hudson. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
1763 any further amendments?

1764 For what purpose does the gentleman from New Jersey seek
1765 to be recognized?

1766 *Mr. Pallone. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the
1767 desk titled DEEMED01, or _01.

1768 *Mr. Hudson. The clerk will report the amendment.

1769 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, could the gentleman from New
1770 Jersey please specify the amendment one more time?

1771 *Mr. Pallone. From what I have here, it says DEEMED, D-
1772 E-E-M-E-D, _01.

1773 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
1774 a substitute to H.R. 2289.

1775 *Mr. Hudson. Without objection, the reading of the
1776 amendment is dispensed with.

1777 [The amendment of Mr. Pallone follows:]

1778

1779 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1780

1781 *Mr. Hudson. And the gentleman is recognized for five
1782 minutes in support of the amendment.

1783 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My amendment
1784 aims to ensure permitting agencies at the Federal, state, and
1785 local levels retain the authority to make decisions that best
1786 suit their needs and the needs of our communities.

1787 No matter where you go in this country, if you want to
1788 do any type of construction, you must first get relevant
1789 approvals from the local government. And whether you are
1790 building a house or school, or putting up utility poles, or
1791 digging a trench to lay fiber, the local government has an
1792 important role to play primarily to ensure the health and
1793 safety of the community. And that is why I am troubled by
1794 provisions like these that enact narrow and arbitrary
1795 timeframes to approve or deny applications and then deem them
1796 granted if a decision hasn't been made by that time.

1797 In other words, if a municipal board or town council is
1798 reviewing an application and does not issue an approval by a
1799 deadline set by the House of Representatives, the applicant's
1800 proposal would automatically be deemed approved without any
1801 further input from the community. And I am most concerned
1802 that these provisions will ultimately raise more questions
1803 than answers, especially when it comes to liability in the
1804 case of accidents on or near job sites.

1805 My colleagues like to demonize local governments for not

1806 approving construction applications as quickly as they would
1807 like, but anyone who has served at the local level knows
1808 there is a lot more to these decisions than a simple yes or
1809 no. No one thinks about who is responsible for ensuring
1810 there is ample police or fire department personnel scheduled
1811 for traffic duty during construction to maintain a safe
1812 environment for workers and community members alike, or the
1813 complexity of stacking or staggering certain construction
1814 projects to avoid disruptions or delays that can often occur
1815 as a result. It is the mayors and councils and planning
1816 boards and zoning boards who are responsible for answering
1817 these questions, and they are the ones on the hook if
1818 anything goes wrong or someone gets hurt.

1819 And those of us that work closely with our mayors and
1820 councils know that they are the biggest advocates when it
1821 comes to deploying communications infrastructure in their
1822 towns. What possible advantage would come from deliberately
1823 ignoring or delaying requests to improve services for their
1824 constituents? These automatic approval provisions not only
1825 put people at risk, they restrict the ability of a town's
1826 residents from participating in an open and transparent
1827 process about important decisions in the community.

1828 So I challenge each of my colleagues to tell their
1829 mayors and local officials about this bill and these
1830 provisions the next time they go home. I encourage you, as I

1831 know you would, to -- well, I mean, obviously, you would not
1832 get a positive response. So I am asking you to support my
1833 amendment to strike these deemed granted provisions in the
1834 bill.

1835 And I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

1836 *Mr. Hudson. I thank the gentleman. The chair
1837 recognizes himself for five minutes to speak on the
1838 amendment.

1839 I would just remind folks we waited three years for BEAD
1840 deployment with no money going out the door. Today 18
1841 states' plans have been approved. The money is moving. And
1842 with billions of dollars ready to go for broadband
1843 deployment, we have to provide accountability on agencies and
1844 certainty to providers whether or not they will get their
1845 permits approved. Delays in the permitting process have the
1846 potential to ruin the success of connecting all Americans,
1847 and we cannot risk this money getting wasted.

1848 Here the Democrats are seeking to strike deemed grant
1849 remedies created in this bill to ensure that state and local
1850 governments act within their review times. What is
1851 interesting is that some of the deemed grant remedies they
1852 are trying to strike were first enacted by Democrats. Deemed
1853 grant remedies are not new. One already exists when state
1854 and local governments fail to act on eligible facility
1855 requests within 60 days. This was enacted in a bipartisan

1856 rulemaking implemented by a Democrat FCC. Then FCC
1857 Commissioner Rosenworcel and Chairman Wheeler both praised
1858 the rules as balancing the need to streamline the permitting
1859 process for the next generation of wireless technology while
1860 preserving state and local authority.

1861 Commissioner Rosenworcel, speaking about the FCC order,
1862 said, and I quote, "That is because the rules we put in place
1863 today are our first steps to encourage deployment of
1864 infrastructure that is absolutely critical for the next
1865 generation of wireless service, 5G.'"

1866 Chairman Wheeler, speaking about the FCC order, said,
1867 quote, "High-speed mobile broadband also requires high-speed
1868 broadband build-out. However, the regulatory burdens
1869 associated with deployments can be expensive and time-
1870 consuming. This order takes concrete steps to immediately
1871 and substantially ease those burdens.'"

1872 Mr. Carter's amendment applies the same reasoning to
1873 other requests to deploy new fixed and mobile communications
1874 infrastructure. Mr. Carter's amendment also broadens the
1875 deemed grants to apply to Federal agencies where it is
1876 necessary in order to ensure that the timeline requirements
1877 in the infrastructure law are met and that billions of
1878 dollars are -- that are ready to be spent on deployment are
1879 not wasted. For that reason I will oppose this amendment and
1880 I encourage my colleagues to vote no.

1881 And with that I yield back. Is there any further
1882 discussion on the amendment?

1883 *Mr. Pallone. I would ask for a roll call, Mr.
1884 Chairman.

1885 *Mr. Hudson. Okay. Seeing that there is -- discussion
1886 is concluded, we will move directly to a vote. A roll call
1887 has been requested. The clerk will call the roll.

1888 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?

1889 *Mr. Allen. No.

1890 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

1891 Mr. Latta?

1892 *Mr. Latta. No.

1893 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

1894 Mr. Griffith?

1895 *Mr. Griffith. No.

1896 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

1897 Mr. Bilirakis?

1898 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

1899 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

1900 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

1901 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

1902 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

1903 Mr. Dunn?

1904 *Mr. Dunn. No.

1905 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

1906 Mr. Fulcher?
1907 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.
1908 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.
1909 Mr. Pfluger?
1910 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
1911 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
1912 Mrs. Cammack?
1913 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
1914 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
1915 Mr. Obernolte?
1916 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
1917 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
1918 Mrs. Houchin?
1919 [No response.]
1920 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
1921 *Mr. Fry. No.
1922 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
1923 Mr. Kean?
1924 *Mr. Kean. No.
1925 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
1926 Mr. Goldman?
1927 *Mr. Goldman. No.
1928 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
1929 Mrs. Fedorchak?
1930 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.

1931 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
1932 Mr. Guthrie?
1933 *The Chair. No.
1934 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
1935 Ms. Matsui?
1936 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
1937 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
1938 Mr. Soto?
1939 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
1940 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
1941 Ms. Clarke?
1942 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
1943 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
1944 Mr. Ruiz?
1945 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
1946 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
1947 Mr. Peters?
1948 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
1949 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
1950 Mrs. Dingell?
1951 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
1952 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
1953 Ms. Kelly?
1954 [No response.]
1955 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?

1956 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

1957 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

1958 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

1959 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

1960 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

1961 Mr. Menendez?

1962 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

1963 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

1964 Mr. Landsman?

1965 *Mr. Landsman. Yes.

1966 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

1967 Ms. McClellan?

1968 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

1969 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

1970 Ms. Castor?

1971 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

1972 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

1973 Mr. Pallone?

1974 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

1975 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

1976 Chairman Hudson?

1977 *Mr. Hudson. No.

1978 *The Clerk. Chairman Hudson votes no.

1979 *Mr. Hudson. How is Mrs. Houchin recorded?

1980 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin is not recorded.

1981 *Mrs. Houchin. No.

1982 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.

1983 *Mr. Hudson. The clerk will report the result.

1984 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 13
1985 ayes and 17 noes.

1986 *Mr. Hudson. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
1987 any further amendments?

1988 For what purpose does gentlelady from Virginia seek to
1989 be recognized?

1990 *Ms. McClellan. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at
1991 the desk labeled ASSIST_01.

1992 *Mr. Hudson. The clerk will report the amendment.

1993 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
1994 a --

1995 *Mr. Hudson. Without objection, the reading of the
1996 amendment is dispensed with.

1997 [The amendment of Ms. McClellan follows:]

1998

1999 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2000

2001 *Mr. Hudson. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
2002 minutes in support of her amendment.

2003 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This
2004 amendment would ensure that our state and local governments
2005 have the capacity and the Federal support necessary to comply
2006 with this bill.

2007 Unfortunately, my Republican colleagues just voted
2008 against removing the automatic approval provisions in the
2009 amendment we just considered. But perhaps this can be a
2010 compromise that helps our state and local partners to be able
2011 to comply with the bill. Otherwise, the bill just amounts to
2012 a set of unfunded mandates.

2013 Everyone on the committee wants to improve access to
2014 broadband by making common-sense permitting reforms,
2015 something we saw reflected in the bipartisan measures we
2016 adopted earlier today. However, this bill could do just the
2017 opposite by imposing strict shortened shot clocks on state
2018 and local permitting authorities, which in most cases lack
2019 the staff or capacity to process applications at the speed
2020 required by this bill.

2021 As we discussed under the bill, if a local permitting
2022 authority is unable to complete its review within the
2023 shortened deadline, the application is automatically approved
2024 and the project can move forward without a thorough review,
2025 without proper coordination, and without meaningful community

2026 input.

2027 As we have heard from several witnesses in recent years,
2028 most of the areas that still need to be connected to
2029 broadband are rural communities, and many of these
2030 communities operate with extremely limited permitting
2031 personnel. These offices are also juggling reviews for
2032 transportation, utilities, housing, community development,
2033 economic development projects, and other critical
2034 infrastructure. And these localities now have additional
2035 burdens imposed on them from the big, ugly bill that they
2036 need to deal with as well.

2037 By layering on a new, truncated deadline for broadband
2038 permits without any Federal support, we will effectively
2039 force local governments to stretch their already strained
2040 resources even further. And so this amendment says if
2041 Congress is going to impose expedited permitting
2042 requirements, we should also provide the necessary funding to
2043 that state and local government so they are not put in an
2044 impossible situation where automatic approvals occur because
2045 they lack the resources to keep up or they are much more
2046 likely to just reject the application outright rather than
2047 work to approve it and work on deficiencies to approve it.
2048 Let's not set our communities up for failure.

2049 I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and I
2050 yield back.

2051 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you. The chair will now recognize
2052 himself for five minutes to speak on the amendment.

2053 Listen, state and local governments have never had more
2054 money that they can use to be prepared for broadband
2055 deployment than they do right now. State and local
2056 governments across the country have received hundreds of
2057 billions of dollars over the last five years. For example,
2058 the infrastructure law provided states with millions of
2059 dollars in planning grants to prepare for administering the
2060 BEAD program. Every single state has received planning
2061 grants from NTIA. Additionally, states have stood up
2062 broadband offices and hired the necessary staff.

2063 This amendment simply requires state and local
2064 governments to respond to permitting requests in a timely
2065 manner. While there may be complicated cases that require
2066 more time to review, broadband providers will work with local
2067 governments ahead of time -- ahead of submitting these
2068 applications to ensure their applications have a high
2069 likelihood of success. And so for that reason I will oppose
2070 this amendment. Thank you.

2071 Is there any further discussion on the amendment?

2072 If there is no further discussion, the vote occurs on
2073 the amendment.

2074 Would you like a recorded --

2075 *Ms. McClellan. Yes.

2076 *Mr. Hudson. A recorded vote has been requested. The
2077 clerk will call the roll.

2078 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?

2079 *Mr. Allen. No.

2080 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

2081 Mr. Latta?

2082 *Mr. Latta. No.

2083 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

2084 Mr. Griffith?

2085 *Mr. Griffith. No.

2086 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

2087 Mr. Bilirakis?

2088 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

2089 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

2090 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

2091 [No response.]

2092 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?

2093 *Mr. Dunn. No.

2094 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

2095 Mr. Fulcher?

2096 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.

2097 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.

2098 Mr. Pfluger?

2099 *Mr. Pfluger. No.

2100 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.

2101 Mrs. Cammack?
2102 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
2103 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
2104 Mr. Obernolte?
2105 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
2106 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
2107 Mrs. Houchin?
2108 [No response.]
2109 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
2110 *Mr. Fry. No.
2111 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
2112 Mr. Kean?
2113 *Mr. Kean. No.
2114 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
2115 Mr. Goldman?
2116 *Mr. Goldman. No.
2117 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.
2118 Mrs. Fedorchak?
2119 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.
2120 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
2121 Mr. Guthrie?
2122 *The Chair. No.
2123 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
2124 Ms. Matsui?
2125 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

2126 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
2127 Mr. Soto?
2128 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
2129 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
2130 Ms. Clarke?
2131 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
2132 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
2133 Mr. Ruiz?
2134 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
2135 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
2136 Mr. Peters?
2137 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
2138 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
2139 Mrs. Dingell?
2140 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
2141 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
2142 Ms. Kelly?
2143 [No response.]
2144 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
2145 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
2146 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
2147 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
2148 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
2149 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
2150 Mr. Menendez?

2151 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

2152 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

2153 Mr. Landsman?

2154 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

2155 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

2156 Ms. McClellan?

2157 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

2158 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

2159 Ms. Castor?

2160 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

2161 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

2162 Mr. Pallone?

2163 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

2164 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

2165 Chairman Hudson?

2166 *Mr. Hudson. No.

2167 *The Clerk. Chairman Hudson votes no.

2168 *Mr. Hudson. How is Mrs. Houchin recorded?

2169 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin is not recorded.

2170 *Mrs. Houchin. No.

2171 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.

2172 *Mr. Hudson. How is Mr. Carter recorded?

2173 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia is not recorded.

2174 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

2175 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

2176 *Mr. Hudson. Is Mr. Kean recorded?

2177 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean is recorded as no.

2178 *Mr. Hudson. All right, the clerk will report the
2179 result.

2180 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 13
2181 ayes and 17 noes.

2182 *Mr. Hudson. The amendment is not agreed to. Are there
2183 any further amendments?

2184 For what purpose does the gentleman from California seek
2185 recognition?

2186 *Mr. Ruiz. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment to the ANS
2187 at the desk labeled TBCP_FUNDS_101.

2188 *Mr. Hudson. The clerk will report the amendment.

2189 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of
2190 a substitute to H.R. 2289. Strike title 3. Add at the end
2191 the following.

2192 *Mr. Hudson. Without objection, the reading of the
2193 amendment is dispensed with.

2194 [The amendment of Mr. Ruiz follows:]

2195

2196 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2197

2198 *Mr. Hudson. And the gentleman is recognized for five
2199 minutes in support of his amendment.

2200 *Mr. Ruiz. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today I offer an
2201 amendment grounded in two core principles: fairness and
2202 respect for tribal sovereignty.

2203 My amendment will ensure that grant funding promised to
2204 tribal nations under the Tribal Broadband Connectivity
2205 Program is distributed in full by the National
2206 Telecommunications and Information Administration, NTIA,
2207 before the provisions in this bill may take effect.

2208 Across our country tribal nations have long faced
2209 systemic barriers to resources that are essential for their
2210 communities to thrive. This became especially apparent
2211 during the COVID pandemic, prompting Congress to establish
2212 the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. Over recent years
2213 NTIA awarded this critical funding to tribes to close the
2214 digital divide, but too much of this funding has not been
2215 allocated. For too many tribal communities the promise of
2216 Federal support is still just that, a promise.

2217 Adding to the concern, just last week NTIA announced new
2218 guidance for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program,
2219 pausing the remaining grants until the Broadband Equity
2220 Access Deployment Program, or BEADS (sic) plan, are approved
2221 and underway. This delay is unacceptable, but making matters
2222 worse is NTIA's intention to hold the funding hostage until

2223 tribes give their consent to BEAD's plans, whether they
2224 support them or not.

2225 The reality is tribal nations have been left out of many
2226 of the deliberations around BEAD in the last year, so they
2227 rightfully have questions and concerns about how BEAD will
2228 support connectivity on tribal lands. We should call this
2229 out for what it is: an attempt by the Trump Administration
2230 to coerce tribal nations to give consent in the BEAD program
2231 to deployment plans they might otherwise reject to access the
2232 funding they were promised. This is a direct threat to
2233 tribal autonomy.

2234 Tribal governments have the sovereign right to make
2235 decisions about infrastructure on their lands. Federal
2236 mandates cannot override that authority. And we must not
2237 forget many of the provisions in the permitting bills being
2238 considered today would allow exemptions to the National
2239 Historic Preservation Act, putting tribal history, cultural
2240 sites, and sacred lands further at risk. Streamlining may be
2241 important, but it cannot come at the cost of erasing history
2242 and undermining tribal sovereignty.

2243 This amendment is not about slowing progress. It is
2244 about ensuring that progress is just, equitable, and
2245 respectful. It ensures that tribal communities receive the
2246 resources promised to them, and that they retain the
2247 authority to chart their own development process.

2248 Today, alongside Senator Schiff, I introduced the Tribal
2249 Internet Expansion Act of 2025, which explicitly recognizes
2250 tribal nations as high cost areas, securing them a place in
2251 broadband expansion efforts. My amendment complements that
2252 work by ensuring that funding is delivered and that tribal
2253 voices and priorities are respected.

2254 Tribal sovereignty is not just a legal concept. It is a
2255 matter of fairness, justice, and respect for the nation-to-
2256 nation relationship that defines our country. We cannot move
2257 forward with legislation that impacts tribal lands while
2258 leaving tribal communities underfunded or stripping them of
2259 their authority to decide their own future.

2260 I yield back.

2261 *Mr. Hudson. I thank the gentleman. The chair now
2262 recognizes himself for five minutes to speak on the
2263 amendment. I appreciate my colleague introducing this
2264 amendment, and I appreciate him elevating the issue of tribal
2265 lands.

2266 My state, like your state, has a rich tribal history,
2267 and we are proud of that, and so the issue you raise is
2268 important. But what is important to understand here is that
2269 we are not eliminating all these review processes. What we
2270 are doing is streamlining these processes so they are not
2271 duplicative. And look, the folks in tribal lands need access
2272 to broadband just as much as anywhere else, and these

2273 permitting delays are a significant barrier to broadband
2274 deployment, in some instances taking multiple months or even
2275 years to complete and costing millions of extra dollars.

2276 This provision would gut the needed permitting reforms
2277 and further prolong the digital divide, and so for that
2278 reason I am going to urge my colleagues to oppose this
2279 amendment.

2280 Any further discussion on the amendment?

2281 If there is no further discussion, the vote occurs on
2282 the amendment. A roll call has been requested. The clerk
2283 will call the roll.

2284 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?

2285 *Mr. Allen. No.

2286 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

2287 Mr. Latta?

2288 *Mr. Latta. No.

2289 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

2290 Mr. Griffith?

2291 *Mr. Griffith. No.

2292 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

2293 Mr. Bilirakis?

2294 [No response.]

2295 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?

2296 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. No.

2297 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes no.

2298 Mr. Dunn?
2299 *Mr. Dunn. No.
2300 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
2301 Mr. Fulcher?
2302 [No response.]
2303 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger?
2304 *Mr. Pfluger. No.
2305 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.
2306 Mrs. Cammack?
2307 *Mrs. Cammack. No.
2308 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.
2309 Mr. Obernolte?
2310 *Mr. Obernolte. No.
2311 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.
2312 Mrs. Houchin?
2313 [No response.]
2314 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
2315 *Mr. Fry. No.
2316 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes no.
2317 Mr. Kean?
2318 *Mr. Kean. No.
2319 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.
2320 Mr. Goldman?
2321 *Mr. Goldman. No.
2322 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.

2323 Mrs. Fedorchak?

2324 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.

2325 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.

2326 Mr. Guthrie?

2327 *The Chair. No.

2328 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.

2329 Ms. Matsui?

2330 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

2331 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

2332 Mr. Soto?

2333 *Mr. Soto. Aye.

2334 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

2335 Ms. Clarke?

2336 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

2337 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

2338 Mr. Ruiz?

2339 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

2340 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

2341 Mr. Peters?

2342 *Mr. Peters. Aye.

2343 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

2344 Mrs. Dingell?

2345 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

2346 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

2347 Ms. Kelly?

2348 [No response.]

2349 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?

2350 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

2351 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

2352 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

2353 [No response.]

2354 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?

2355 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

2356 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

2357 Mr. Landsman?

2358 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

2359 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

2360 Ms. McClellan?

2361 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

2362 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

2363 Ms. Castor?

2364 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

2365 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

2366 Mr. Pallone?

2367 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

2368 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

2369 Chairman Hudson?

2370 *Mr. Hudson. No.

2371 *The Clerk. Chairman Hudson votes no.

2372 *Mr. Allen. [Presiding.] How is Mr. Bilirakis recorded?

2373 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis is not recorded.

2374 *Mr. Bilirakis. Bilirakis votes no.

2375 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

2376 *Mr. Allen. Mr. Fulcher, how are you recorded?

2377 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher, no.

2378 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.

2379 *Mr. Allen. Mrs. Houchin, how are you recorded?

2380 *Mrs. Houchin. Houchin, no.

2381 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.

2382 *Mr. Allen. Okay, the clerk will report the result.

2383 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 12

2384 ayes and 17 noes.

2385 *Mr. Allen. Okay, the amendment is not agreed to. Are

2386 there any further amendments?

2387 *Ms. Clarke. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the

2388 desk.

2389 *Mr. Allen. For what purpose -- which amendment?

2390 *Ms. Clarke. Amendment D4.

2391 *Mr. Allen. Okay. All right. Chair -- the clerk will

2392 report the amendment.

2393 *The Clerk. Amendment to the amendment in the nature of

2394 a substitute to H.R. 2289. Page 35, after line 10, insert

2395 the following and redesignate --

2396 *Mr. Allen. Without objection, the reading of the

2397 amendment is dispensed with.

2398 [The amendment of Ms. Clarke follows:]

2399

2400 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2401

2402 *Mr. Allen. And the gentlelady is recognized for five
2403 minutes in support of the amendment.

2404 *Ms. Clarke. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2405 My amendment recognizes the access to reliable, high-
2406 speed Internet is essential in our increasingly digital
2407 society. It seeks to balance the benefits the majority is
2408 attempting to hand out to providers with obligations to
2409 ensure that no community, no family is left behind when
2410 infrastructure is being deployed.

2411 And I want to make very clear at the outset of my
2412 remarks, despite what you hear from my Republican colleagues,
2413 the group of partisan bills considered today will do very
2414 little, if anything, to encourage broadband infrastructure
2415 investment and deployment, particularly as the current
2416 Administration has systematically dismantled historic,
2417 bipartisan legislative efforts to close the digital divide.

2418 In fact, when all is said and done I am confident that
2419 this Administration, with the approval of my Republican
2420 colleagues, will have done more to actively worsen the
2421 digital divide than any previous administration. From
2422 delaying and knee-capping the BEAD program and attacking
2423 affordable efforts to illegally withholding Digital Equity
2424 Act funding and tribal connectivity dollars, Republicans seem
2425 to be on a mission to make sure that some communities stay
2426 offline, maybe for good.

2427 Talking about these meager permitting ideas at this
2428 moment in time is an insufficient -- is as insufficient as
2429 holding up a cocktail umbrella in the middle of a hurricane.
2430 However, turning to my amendment, I believe efforts to
2431 streamline broadband deployment should be balanced with our
2432 desire to ensure that low-income and minority communities who
2433 have been subjected to both traditional and digital redlining
2434 in the past do not continue to be left behind.

2435 The truth is that many of the communities that were
2436 impacted by redlining decades ago, who were discriminated
2437 against when seeking to apply for mortgage loans continue to
2438 suffer with inferior infrastructure and services today,
2439 including broadband, and many will face a form of redlining
2440 once again as their BEAD dollars will be shifted from real
2441 fiber infrastructure to untested satellite service.

2442 Unfortunately, I have heard clearly in hearings over the
2443 years from our expert witnesses that previous deregulatory
2444 efforts did nothing to mitigate the digital redlining we see
2445 today. In fact, they may have made it worse. Instead,
2446 previous efforts -- "streamline" -- simply allow providers
2447 to perpetuate historic discrimination against certain
2448 communities while facilitating build-out to wealthier
2449 communities where they could make more money.

2450 My amendment would ensure that this current round of
2451 "streamlining" doesn't become yet another giveaway to

2452 providers seeking to pad their bottom line. Instead, my
2453 amendment would allow providers to take advantage of the
2454 streamlining process that the majority is proposing, but only
2455 if they commit to serving every household in the jurisdiction
2456 that is granting their permit. This would help urban, rural,
2457 and suburban communities. Without such an obligation,
2458 history is doomed to repeat itself, and certain communities
2459 will remain disconnected. As such, our goals of getting
2460 affordable, reliable broadband to every area of this
2461 community -- goals that my colleagues across the aisle
2462 purport to share -- will be perpetually frustrated.

2463 In theory, I do not oppose working with my colleagues on
2464 this committee to explore pathways to equitable, streamlined
2465 permitting processes and bridge the digital divide. So I
2466 urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I thank you.

2467 And I yield back.

2468 *Mr. Allen. The chair recognizes himself for five
2469 minutes in opposition to the amendment.

2470 I appreciate the gentlelady's offer to work together,
2471 but we have been working at this for some time. If Democrats
2472 wanted to have a conversation about serving unserved areas,
2473 we would have welcomed it. Unfortunately, this amendment is
2474 poorly drafted. Rather than double down on encouraging
2475 investment so that all Americans can be served, this
2476 amendment could have the opposite effect.

2477 This amendment could also lead to less competition in
2478 the marketplace if one provider is required to serve all
2479 locations, even if another provider could serve some
2480 locations more efficiently.

2481 I urge a no vote on this amendment and I yield back.

2482 Are there any other comments on the amendment?

2483 Hearing none, do you want a roll call?

2484 *Voice. Yes.

2485 *Mr. Allen. Okay. All right. The clerk will call the
2486 roll.

2487 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?

2488 *Mr. Allen. No.

2489 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes no.

2490 Mr. Latta?

2491 *Mr. Latta. No.

2492 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

2493 Mr. Griffith?

2494 *Mr. Griffith. No.

2495 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

2496 Mr. Bilirakis?

2497 [No response.]

2498 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia?

2499 [No response.]

2500 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?

2501 [No response.]

2502 *Voice. No.

2503 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher?

2504 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is no.

2505 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes no.

2506 Mr. Pfluger?

2507 *Mr. Pfluger. No.

2508 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes no.

2509 Mrs. Cammack?

2510 *Mrs. Cammack. No.

2511 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes no.

2512 Mr. Obernolte?

2513 *Mr. Obernolte. No.

2514 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.

2515 Mrs. Houchin?

2516 [No response.]

2517 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?

2518 [No response.]

2519 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean?

2520 *Mr. Kean. No.

2521 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes no.

2522 Mr. Goldman?

2523 *Mr. Goldman. No.

2524 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes no.

2525 Mrs. Fedorchak?

2526 *Mrs. Fedorchak. No.

2527 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes no.
2528 Mr. Guthrie?
2529 *The Chair. No.
2530 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
2531 Ms. Matsui?
2532 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
2533 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
2534 Mr. Soto?
2535 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
2536 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
2537 Ms. Clarke?
2538 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
2539 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
2540 Mr. Ruiz?
2541 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
2542 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
2543 Mr. Peters?
2544 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
2545 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
2546 Mrs. Dingell?
2547 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
2548 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
2549 Ms. Kelly?
2550 [No response.]
2551 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?

2552 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

2553 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

2554 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

2555 [No response.]

2556 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?

2557 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

2558 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

2559 Mr. Landsman?

2560 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

2561 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

2562 Ms. McClellan?

2563 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

2564 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

2565 Ms. Castor?

2566 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

2567 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

2568 Mr. Pallone?

2569 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

2570 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

2571 Chairman Hudson?

2572 [No response.]

2573 *Mr. Allen. How is Mr. Dunn recorded?

2574 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn is not recorded.

2575 *Mr. Dunn. No.

2576 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

2577 *Mr. Allen. Who else do we have?

2578 Mr. Bilirakis, how is Mr. Bilirakis recorded?

2579 *Mr. Bilirakis. Bilirakis votes no.

2580 *The Clerk. Bilirakis votes no.

2581 *Mr. Allen. Mrs. Houchin?

2582 *Mrs. Houchin. Houchin votes no.

2583 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes no.

2584 *Mr. Allen. Does anybody else seek recognition?

2585 Okay, the clerk will report the result.

2586 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 12
2587 ayes and 14 noes.

2588 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman?

2589 *Mr. Allen. I am sorry, we have already closed the
2590 vote, Mr. Carter.

2591 All right, would the clerk -- okay, the amendment is not
2592 agreed to. Are there are further amendments?

2593 That is it? Okay. So now do we have a vote on the --
2594 okay. Voice vote? Okay.

2595 So those in favor, please say aye. And this is on the
2596 amendment in the nature of a substitute. So again, all those
2597 in favor say aye.

2598 All those opposed, no.

2599 In the opinion of the chair the ayes have it, and the
2600 amendment is agreed to.

2601 The question now occurs on adopting H.R. 2289, as

2602 amended.

2603 All those in favor, say aye.

2604 *Mr. Pallone. We want a roll call.

2605 *Mr. Allen. A roll call. Okay, a roll call vote has
2606 been requested. The clerk will call the roll.

2607 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen?

2608 *Mr. Allen. Aye.

2609 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.

2610 Mr. Latta?

2611 [No response.]

2612 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

2613 *Mr. Griffith. Yes.

2614 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

2615 Mr. Bilirakis?

2616 *Mr. Bilirakis. Yes, yes.

2617 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

2618 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

2619 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

2620 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

2621 Mr. Dunn?

2622 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.

2623 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.

2624 Mr. Fulcher?

2625 *Mr. Fulcher. Aye.

2626 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.

2627 Mr. Pfluger?

2628 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.

2629 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.

2630 Mrs. Cammack?

2631 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.

2632 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.

2633 Mr. Obernolte?

2634 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

2635 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.

2636 Mrs. Houchin?

2637 [No response.]

2638 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?

2639 [No response.]

2640 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean?

2641 *Mr. Kean. Aye.

2642 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.

2643 Mr. Goldman?

2644 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.

2645 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.

2646 Mrs. Fedorchak?

2647 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.

2648 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.

2649 Mr. Guthrie?

2650 *The Chair. Aye.

2651 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.

2652 Ms. Matsui?
2653 *Ms. Matsui. No.
2654 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes no.
2655 Mr. Soto?
2656 *Mr. Soto. No.
2657 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes no.
2658 Ms. Clarke?
2659 *Ms. Clarke. No.
2660 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes no.
2661 Mr. Ruiz?
2662 *Mr. Ruiz. No.
2663 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes no.
2664 Mr. Peters?
2665 *Mr. Peters. No.
2666 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes no.
2667 Mrs. Dingell?
2668 *Mrs. Dingell. No.
2669 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes no.
2670 Ms. Kelly?
2671 [No response.]
2672 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
2673 *Ms. Barragan. No.
2674 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes no.
2675 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
2676 [No response.]

2677 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez?

2678 *Mr. Menendez. No.

2679 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes no.

2680 Mr. Landsman?

2681 *Mr. Landsman. No.

2682 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes no.

2683 Ms. McClellan?

2684 *Ms. McClellan. No.

2685 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes no.

2686 Ms. Castor?

2687 *Ms. Castor. No.

2688 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes no.

2689 Mr. Pallone?

2690 *Mr. Pallone. No.

2691 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes no.

2692 Chairman Hudson?

2693 [No response.]

2694 *Mr. Allen. How is Mr. Latta recorded?

2695 *Mr. Latta. Latta votes aye.

2696 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

2697 *Mr. Allen. Okay. Mrs. Houchin, how is Mrs. Houchin

2698 recorded?

2699 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin is not recorded.

2700 *Mrs. Houchin. Houchin votes aye.

2701 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.

2702 *Mr. Allen. How is Mr. Fry recorded?

2703 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry is not recorded.

2704 *Mr. Fry. Aye.

2705 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.

2706 *Mr. Allen. Okay, any -- yes?

2707 How is Mr. -- okay, how is Mr. -- recorded?

2708 *Voice. Soto.

2709 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto is recorded as no.

2710 *Mr. Allen. Okay. Anybody else? I can't read your

2711 name down -- okay. The clerk will report the -- the clerk

2712 will call the roll. He just called the roll. Will report.

2713 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 16

2714 ayes and 12 noes.

2715 *Mr. Allen. Okay, the ayes have it. The bill is

2716 adopted and forwarded to the full committee. Okay.

2717 Without objection, staff is authorized to make technical

2718 and conforming changes to the legislation approved by the

2719 committee today.

2720 So ordered.

2721 The chair -- without objection, the committee stands

2722 adjourned.

2723 [Whereupon, at 12:21 p.m., the subcommittee was

2724 adjourned.]