

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5419

[Report No. 119-]

To direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a plan for ensuring timely review of communications use authorizations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

Mr. KEAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

FEBRUARY --, 2026

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources with amendments

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on Septemeber 17, 2025]

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a plan for ensuring timely review of communications use authorizations, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Enhancing Administra-*
5 *tive Reviews for Broadband Deployment Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. ENSURING TIMELY REVIEW OF BROADBAND LAND**

7 **USE AUTHORIZATIONS.**

8 *(a) STUDY AND REPORT.—*

9 *(1) STUDY.—The Secretaries concerned shall*
10 *each conduct, with respect to the relevant covered de-*
11 *partment, a study to determine—*

12 *(A) if there are programmatic or adminis-*
13 *trative barriers to the timely review of requests*
14 *for broadband land use authorizations;*

15 *(B) if there are revisions to rules or regula-*
16 *tions that could be implemented to improve effi-*
17 *ciency with respect to reviewing requests for*
18 *broadband land use authorizations; and*

19 *(C) if there are processes for prioritizing the*
20 *review of requests for broadband land use au-*
21 *thorizations.*

22 *(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the*
23 *date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries con-*
24 *cerned shall jointly submit to the appropriate con-*
25 *gressional committees a report that—*

1 (A) describes the results of the studies con-
2 ducted under paragraph (1), including any bar-
3 riers, revisions, or processes identified under sub-
4 paragraphs (A) through (C) of such paragraph;
5 and

6 (B) includes a plan for providing, with re-
7 spect to the organizational units of the relevant
8 covered departments, the staffing necessary to en-
9 sure timely review of broadband land use author-
10 izations.

11 (b) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

12 (1) *APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-*
13 *TEES.*—*The term “appropriate congressional commit-*
14 *tees” means the—*

15 (A) *Committees on Natural Resources, Agri-*
16 *culture, and Energy and Commerce of the House*
17 *of Representatives; and*

18 (B) *Committees on Commerce, Science, and*
19 *Transportation and Environment and Public*
20 *Works of the Senate.*

21 (2) *BROADBAND LAND USE AUTHORIZATION.*—
22 *The term “broadband land use authorization” means*
23 *an easement, right-of-way, lease, license, or other au-*
24 *thorization—*

1 (A) provided by the Secretary of the Inte-
2 rior or the Secretary of Agriculture;

3 (B) to locate or modify a communications
4 facility on covered land; and

5 (C) for the primary purpose of authorizing
6 the occupancy and use of such covered land for
7 communications use.

8 (3) *COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY.*—The term
9 “communications facility” has the meaning given the
10 term “communications facility installation” in sec-
11 tion 6409(d) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job
12 Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1455(d)).

13 (4) *COMMUNICATIONS USE.*—The term “commu-
14 nications use” means the placement and operation of
15 a communications facility.

16 (5) *COVERED LAND.*—The term “covered land”
17 means—

18 (A) public lands; and

19 (B) National Forest System land.

20 (6) *NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.*—The term “Na-
21 tional Forest System” has the meaning given that
22 term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland
23 Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
24 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

1 (7) *ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT.*—*The term “organi-*
2 *zational unit” means—*

3 (A) *with respect to the Department of the*
4 *Interior—*

5 (i) *a State office of the Bureau of Land*
6 *Management;*

7 (ii) *a district office of the Bureau of*
8 *Land Management; or*

9 (iii) *a field office of the Bureau of*
10 *Land Management; and*

11 (B) *with respect to the Department of Agri-*
12 *culture—*

13 (i) *a regional office of the Forest Serv-*
14 *ice;*

15 (ii) *a management unit of the Forest*
16 *Service; or*

17 (iii) *a ranger district office of the For-*
18 *est Service.*

19 (8) *PUBLIC LANDS.*—*The term “public lands”*
20 *has the meaning given that term in section 103 of the*
21 *Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976*
22 *(43 U.S.C. 1702).*

23 (9) *RELEVANT COVERED DEPARTMENT.*—*The*
24 *term “relevant covered department” means—*

1 (A) *with respect to the Secretary of the Inte-*
2 *rior, the Department of the Interior; and*

3 (B) *with respect to the Secretary of Agri-*
4 *culture, the Department of Agriculture.*

5 (10) *SECRETARIES CONCERNED.—The term*
6 *“Secretaries concerned” means—*

7 (A) *the Secretary of the Interior; and*

8 (B) *the Secretary of Agriculture, acting*
9 *through the Chief of the Forest Service.*

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a plan for ensuring timely review of broadband land use authorizations, and for other purposes.”.