To improve the collection and aggregation of fixed and mobile broadband internet service coverage data, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2019

Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To improve the collection and aggregation of fixed and mobile broadband internet service coverage data, 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
4 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
5 This Act may be cited as the “Map Improvement Act
6 of 2019”.
7
8 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.
9 In this Act:
(1) **ASSISTANT SECRETARY.**—The term “Assistant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

(2) **BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICE.**—The term “broadband internet service”—

(A) means mass-market retail service by wire or radio that provides the capability to transmit data to and receive data from all or substantially all internet endpoints, including any capabilities that are incidental to and enable the operation of the communications service;

(B) includes any service that the Commission finds to be providing a functional equivalent of the service described in subparagraph (A) or that is used to evade the protections set forth in part 8 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto; and

(C) does not include dial-up internet service.

(3) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

(4) **END USER.**—The term “end user” means any individual or entity that uses a broadband internet service.
(5) Fixed broadband internet service.— The term “fixed broadband internet service” means—
(A) a broadband internet service that serves end users primarily at fixed endpoints using stationary equipment; and
(B) includes fixed wireless services, including fixed unlicensed wireless services, and fixed satellite services.

(6) GIS.— The term “GIS” means geographic information systems.

(7) Mobile broadband internet service.— The term “mobile broadband internet service” shall have the meaning given such term by the Commission for purposes of this Act.

(8) State.— The term “State” means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

SEC. 3. COLLECTION AND MAPPING OF FIXED AND MOBILE BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICE COVERAGE.

(a) Standardized Methodology Rule.—
(1) In general.— Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission,
in coordination with the Assistant Secretary, shall
promulgate a final rule to establish a standardized
methodology for collecting and mapping accurate
fixed broadband internet service and mobile
broadband internet service coverage data in the
United States, which shall—

(A) ensure that coverage data for fixed
broadband internet service and mobile
broadband internet service is collected in a
standardized, consistent, and robust manner;

(B) improve the validity and reliability of
coverage data;

(C) increase the efficiency of coverage data
collection;

(D) contain standard definitions for dif-
f erent speed tiers, such as the 2G, 3G, 4G, and
4G LTE tiers and the equivalent for fixed
broadband internet service;

(E) ensure that the collection and valida-
tion process occurs on a regular basis; and

(F) establish a standardized ongoing vali-
dation process and public feedback mechanism
that will allow for consumers, State and local
officials, and broadband internet service pro-
viders to submit data to the Commission to
verify coverage data from broadband internet
service providers and challenge any aspects of
such data believed to be inaccurate.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In promulgating the
rule required under paragraph (1), the Commission
shall consider—

(A) coordinating with the Postmaster Gen-
eral, the heads of other Federal agencies that
operate delivery fleet vehicles, and the Director
of the Bureau of the Census for assistance with
data collection and the feasibility of using more
granular address level data; and

(B) creating 1 centralized national map
with multiple layers, including a layer each for
fixed broadband internet service and mobile
broadband internet service, which may be used
in determining eligibility for all Federal
broadband internet service grant, loan, and sub-
sidy programs.

(3) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—The Com-
mission shall establish an Office of Broadband Data
Collection and Mapping within the Commission to
serve as the central point of collection, aggregation,
and validation of data collected under the standard-
ized methodology established under this subsection.
(b) **Technical Assistance Program.**—

(1) **In General.**—The Assistant Secretary shall establish a technical assistance program under which the Assistant Secretary shall provide grants to State and local entities, such as regional planning organizations, to—

(A) assist such entities with mapping and the development of a GIS-based map of existing fixed broadband internet service and mobile broadband internet service; and

(B) assess current broadband internet service adoption rates and advertised broadband internet service pricing in the community.

(2) **Use of Funds.**—Funds received under this subsection—

(A) shall be used to—

(i) carry out the activities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1); and

(ii) participate in the standardized on-going validation process and public feedback mechanism described in subsection (a)(1)(F); and

(B) may be used to purchase GIS software and for technical assistance with that software.
(3) Other uses for GIS software.—A grantee may use GIS software acquired using funds received under this subsection for other purposes in addition to broadband internet service mapping.