

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 1752  
OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF MISSOURI**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Eliminating Barriers  
3 to Rural Internet Development Grant Eligibility Act” or  
4 the “E-BRIDGE Act”.

**5 SEC. 2. HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT INITIA-  
6 TIVE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Public Works and  
8 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et  
9 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**10 “SEC. 219. HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT INITIA-  
11 TIVE.**

12 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 “(1) BROADBAND PROJECT.—The term  
14 ‘broadband project’ means, for the purpose of pro-  
15 viding, extending, expanding, or improving high-  
16 speed broadband service to further the goals of this  
17 Act—

1           “(A) planning, technical assistance, or  
2 training;

3           “(B) the acquisition or development of  
4 land; or

5           “(C) the acquisition, design and engineer-  
6 ing, construction, rehabilitation, alteration, ex-  
7 pansion, or improvement of facilities, including  
8 related machinery, equipment, contractual  
9 rights, and intangible property.

10          “(2) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—

11           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘eligible re-  
12 cipient’ means an eligible recipient.

13           “(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘eligible re-  
14 cipient’ includes—

15                   “(i) a public-private partnership; and

16                   “(ii) a consortium formed for the pur-  
17 pose of providing, extending, expanding, or  
18 improving high-speed broadband service  
19 between 1 or more eligible recipients and 1  
20 or more for-profit organizations.

21          “(3) HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND.—The term  
22 ‘high-speed broadband’ means the provision of 2-way  
23 data transmission with sufficient downstream and  
24 upstream speeds to end users to permit effective

1 participation in the economy and to support eco-  
2 nomic growth, as determined by the Secretary.

3 “(b) BROADBAND PROJECTS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—On the application of an el-  
5 igible recipient, the Secretary may make grants  
6 under this title for broadband projects, which shall  
7 be subject to the provisions of this section.

8 “(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In reviewing applica-  
9 tions submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary  
10 shall take into consideration geographic diversity of  
11 grants allocated, including consideration of under-  
12 served markets, in addition to data requested in  
13 paragraph (3).

14 “(3) DATA REQUESTED.—In reviewing an ap-  
15 plication submitted under paragraph (1), the Sec-  
16 retary shall request from the Federal Communica-  
17 tions Commission, the Administrator of the National  
18 Telecommunications and Information Administra-  
19 tion, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Appa-  
20 lachian Regional Commission data on—

21 “(A) the level and extent of broadband  
22 service that exists in the area proposed to be  
23 served; and

24 “(B) the level and extent of broadband  
25 service that will be deployed in the area pro-

1           posed to be served pursuant to another Federal  
2           program.

3           “(4) INTEREST IN REAL OR PERSONAL PROP-  
4           ERTY.—For any broadband project carried out by an  
5           eligible recipient that is a public-private partnership  
6           or consortium, the Secretary shall require that title  
7           to any real or personal property acquired or im-  
8           proved with grant funds, or if the recipient will not  
9           acquire title, another possessory interest acceptable  
10          to the Secretary, be vested in a public partner or eli-  
11          gible nonprofit organization or association for the  
12          useful life of the project, after which title may be  
13          transferred to any member of the public-private  
14          partnership or consortium in accordance with regu-  
15          lations promulgated by the Secretary.

16          “(5) PROCUREMENT.—Notwithstanding any  
17          other provision of law, no person or entity shall be  
18          disqualified from competing to provide goods or serv-  
19          ices related to a broadband project on the basis that  
20          the person or entity participated in the development  
21          of the broadband project or in the drafting of speci-  
22          fications, requirements, statements of work, or simi-  
23          lar documents related to the goods or services to be  
24          provided.

25          “(6) BROADBAND PROJECT PROPERTY.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may  
2           permit a recipient of a grant for a broadband  
3           project to grant an option to acquire real or  
4           personal property (including contractual rights  
5           and intangible property) related to that project  
6           to a third party on such terms as the Secretary  
7           determines to be appropriate, subject to the  
8           condition that the option may only be exercised  
9           after the Secretary releases the Federal interest  
10          in the property.

11          “(B) TREATMENT.—The grant or exercise  
12          of an option described in subparagraph (A)  
13          shall not constitute a redistribution of grant  
14          funds under section 217.

15          “(c) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—In determining the  
16          amount of the non-Federal share of the cost of a  
17          broadband project, the Secretary may provide credit to-  
18          ward the non-Federal share for the present value of allow-  
19          able contributions over the useful life of the broadband  
20          project, subject to the condition that the Secretary may  
21          require such assurances of the value of the rights and of  
22          the commitment of the rights as the Secretary determines  
23          to be appropriate.”.

24          (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
25          in section 1(b) of the Public Works and Economic Devel-

1 opment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law  
2 89–136) is amended by inserting after the item relating  
3 to section 218 the following:

“Sec. 219. High-speed broadband deployment initiative.”.

4 **SEC. 3. APPLICABILITY.**

5 The amendments made by this Act shall only apply  
6 to amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment  
7 of this Act.

