

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

January 3, 2024

Alan Davidson
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Administrator Davidson:

I write to urge prompt review of the State of Wisconsin's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Initial Proposal. Volumes I and II of Wisconsin's Initial Proposal grow out of the state's comprehensive Five-Year Action Plan, which was written following stakeholder input, local coordination, and data analysis to determine the State's best path to achieving Internet for all of Wisconsin with a significant federal investment. I ask the Administration to quickly review the State's Initial Proposal so that its \$1.056 billion BEAD allocation can be put to work to close our digital divide.

Wisconsin's Initial Proposal outlines four necessary goals for statewide broadband adoption: achieving the highest possible level of broadband deployment and adoption; delivering sustained, long-term impact on broadband access and digital opportunity for all Wisconsinites; increasing the affordability and reliability of broadband service in the state; and ensuring a sufficient and trained workforce to construct, operate, and maintain current and new broadband infrastructure. Through these goals and associated objectives, the State can use federal BEAD funding to drive Internet access to 421,000 unserved and underserved locations and address the affordability gap that stands in the way of 650,000 Wisconsinites who need high-speed broadband service.¹

I am proud to have voted for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that created BEAD and the Affordable Connectivity Program, and I am committed to these programs' successful continuation and implementation. With these once-in-a-generation federal investments, we can close Wisconsin's digital divide and bring affordable, high-speed Internet access to every corner of the Badger state. Thank you for your prompt attention to Wisconsin's BEAD Initial Proposal.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

¹ BEAD Volume II Overview, at: <https://psc.wi.gov/Documents/broadband/5-BF-2023BEADWebinar2023.12.1.pdf>; No Home Left Offline, Wisconsin Broadband Affordability Gap, at: https://www.educationsuperhighway.org/wp-content/uploads/NoHomeLeftOffline_Infographic_Wisconsin.pdf.