

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1277

To authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to make grants for public-private partnerships that finance equipment and infrastructure to improve the public safety of persons who are residents of rural areas of the United States near the border with Mexico by enhancing access to mobile communications, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 31, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to make grants for public-private partnerships that finance equipment and infrastructure to improve the public safety of persons who are residents of rural areas of the United States near the border with Mexico by enhancing access to mobile communications, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Southern Borderlands
3 Public Safety Communications Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

5 The purpose of this Act is to improve the public safe-
6 ty of persons living in rural areas of the United States
7 near the border with Mexico by enhancing mobile commu-
8 nications capabilities.

9 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM.**

10 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-
11 rity may make competitive grants for public-private part-
12 nerships that finance equipment and infrastructure to im-
13 prove the public safety of persons who are residents of
14 rural areas of the United States near the border with Mex-
15 ico, by enhancing access to mobile communications for
16 such persons who do not currently have access to reliable
17 mobile communications networks.

18 (b) **FOCUS AREAS.**—In making grants under this sec-
19 tion, the Secretary shall focus on projects that improve
20 mobile communications in areas impacted by the illegal
21 smuggling and trafficking of people and drugs from Mex-
22 ico into the United States.

23 (c) **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.**—Persons eligible for
24 grants under this section include States, counties, munici-
25 palities, organizations representing agricultural producers

1 and other rural Americans, and telecommunications pro-
2 viders.

3 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For
4 grants under this section there is authorized to be appro-
5 priated to the Secretary \$10,000,000 for the 3-fiscal-year
6 period following the date of enactment of this Act.

7 (e) FUNDING OFFSET.—To offset amounts appro-
8 priated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in
9 subsection (d), the International Forestry Cooperation Act
10 of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.) is repealed.

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