

Over the past 4 years, the Biden administration has worked hard to implement historic investments made by Congress in the bipartisan infrastructure law to expand broadband access to all Americans.

This includes the \$42 billion BEAD program, which will empower States and territories to close the digital divide and bring high-speed, affordable internet to unserved and underserved communities.

It should come as no surprise that many of the communities lacking internet access are rural, remote, and sparsely populated areas. Like in my own district, areas like Kenansville, Deer Park, Bull Creek, and Yeehaw Junction. Bringing this infrastructure to them will, in many cases, require crossing large geographic areas.

This is especially true in many of our Western States where significant amounts of territory are owned and managed by the Federal Government. H.R. 3343 is going to help bring more transparency to the status and progress of applications to deploy communications infrastructure on publicly owned and managed lands.

The bill requires the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to develop and implement a plan to assist communications providers in navigating the burdens of deploying communications infrastructure on public lands.

Ultimately, this bill should lead to more robust collaboration between those responsible for reviewing permit applications for Federal lands and communications providers who are trying to bring high-speed internet to all of our constituents.

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I thank Representative PFLUGER for his leadership on this bill that I was happy to co-introduce with him. This bipartisan legislation is the product of regular order, and I am pleased to see it taken up by the full House today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER), the bill's sponsor.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding me time.

I rise in support of my legislation, the Federal Broadband Deployment Tracking Act. This bill is essential to improving transparency and efficiency in the broadband deployment process, which will help close the digital divide for rural Americans.

According to a 2024 GAO study on broadband deployment, the BLM and Forest Service, which handle most of the permitting reviews on Federal lands, often exceed the 270-day statutory deadline for processing applications. Lengthy application reviews, excessive fees, and complex environmental and historic preservation reviews mean delays in providing service

and higher prices leaving ordinary Americans without basic broadband services.

My legislation is simple. It requires the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to submit a comprehensive plan to Congress within 180 days detailing how the agency will track the acceptance, processing, and disposal of broadband permitting applications on Federal lands. These applications are essential for accessing easements and rights-of-way to build or maintain telecommunications infrastructure. The NTIA will also be responsible for detailing how quickly they will implement their plan and any potential barriers that they could face.

The Federal Broadband Deployment Tracking Act is a critical step toward a more connected America. By enhancing government accountability and accelerating broadband deployment, we are not just improving a process, we are investing in the future of our Nation. This act will help ensure that investments in broadband expansion reach Americans more quickly and effectively.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation. Together, we can close the digital divide and create a more connected future for all Americans.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, if the gentleman is ready to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, it is time to get this done for the American people. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, this bill is very essential because, again, as we have seen, broadband is absolutely essential for everyday Americans.

As we think about what happened during COVID, Americans were shut in, and they relied on broadband for everything from education to telehealth to business. It went across the board.

It is absolutely essential we get this bill passed today, and I urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3343.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PROMOTING UNITED STATES WIRELESS LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2023

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1377) to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to take certain actions to enhance the representation of the United States and promote

United States leadership in communications standards-setting bodies, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1377

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2023”.

#### SEC. 2. REPRESENTATION AND LEADERSHIP OF UNITED STATES IN COMMUNICATIONS STANDARDS-SETTING BODIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to enhance the representation of the United States and promote United States leadership in standards-setting bodies that set standards for 5G networks and for future generations of wireless communications networks, the Assistant Secretary shall, in consultation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology—

(1) equitably encourage participation by companies and a wide variety of relevant stakeholders, but not including any company or relevant stakeholder that the Assistant Secretary has determined to be not trusted, (to the extent such standards-setting bodies allow such stakeholders to participate) in such standards-setting bodies; and

(2) equitably offer technical expertise to companies and a wide variety of relevant stakeholders, but not including any company or relevant stakeholder that the Assistant Secretary has determined to be not trusted, (to the extent such standards-setting bodies allow such stakeholders to participate) to facilitate such participation.

(b) STANDARDS-SETTING BODIES.—The standards-setting bodies referred to in subsection (a) include—

(1) the International Organization for Standardization;

(2) the voluntary standards-setting bodies that develop protocols for wireless devices and other equipment, such as the 3GPP and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers; and

(3) any standards-setting body accredited by the American National Standards Institute or Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions.

(c) BRIEFING.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall brief the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Foreign Relations of the Senate on a strategy to carry out subsection (a).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) 3GPP.—The term “3GPP” means the 3rd Generation Partnership Project.

(2) 5G NETWORK.—The term “5G network” means a fifth-generation mobile network as described by 3GPP Release 15 or higher.

(3) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assistant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

(4) CLOUD COMPUTING.—The term “cloud computing” has the meaning given the term in Special Publication 800-145 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, entitled “The NIST Definition of Cloud Computing”, published in September 2011, or any successor publication.

(5) COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.—The term “communications network” means any of the following:

(A) A system enabling the transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user's choosing.

(B) Cloud computing resources.

(C) A network or system used to access cloud computing resources.

(6) NOT TRUSTED.—The term “not trusted” means, with respect to a company or stakeholder, that the company or stakeholder is determined by the Assistant Secretary to pose a threat to the national security of the United States. In making such a determination, the Assistant Secretary shall rely solely on one or more of the following determinations:

(A) A specific determination made by any executive branch interagency body with appropriate national security expertise, including the Federal Acquisition Security Council established under section 1322(a) of title 41, United States Code.

(B) A specific determination made by the Department of Commerce pursuant to Executive Order No. 13873 (84 Fed. Reg. 22689; relating to securing the information and communications technology and services supply chain).

(C) Whether a company or stakeholder produces or provides covered telecommunications equipment or services, as defined in section 889(f)(3) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232; 132 Stat. 1918).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1377, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act.

For decades, the United States has led the development of next-generation wireless technology. To maintain leadership and defend against our foreign adversaries, we must continue to focus on bolstering the foundational elements, like standards development, to make sure the United States continues to lead on future technological advancements.

As these standards are set in global, industry-led standards bodies, we must enhance participation by U.S. companies and remain vigilant so that bad actors don't game the system for their own economic and national security interests. To keep accountability and ensure proper transparency, we must encourage participation by trusted, like-minded partners.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration plays a central role in these efforts as the executive branch agency with technical expertise on wireless innovation. They have decades of experience working with the industry and other stakeholders to develop these technical standards globally.

I thank the dedicated career staff who worked tirelessly to advance U.S. global wireless leadership. As we move into the next decade, it is critical that we continue to enhance participation in critical standards-setting bodies and preserve U.S. wireless leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1377, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act. This legislation is an important step toward ensuring that the national and global bodies crafting standards for next-generation wireless technologies, such as 6G and Wi-Fi 8, include significant representation from trusted American companies and those from allied countries.

H.R. 1377 accomplishes this objective by requiring the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to encourage and facilitate the participation of trusted companies and stakeholders in the domestic and international standards-setting bodies for wireless technologies. The Assistant Secretary must also brief Congress within 60 days of the bill becoming law on the strategy to accomplish these objectives.

It is crucial that American and allied interests are well-represented at these standards-setting bodies. If the United States is not a leader in shaping the wireless future, our adversaries will step up in the leadership void. This includes dominating the future 6G marketplace in a way that may undermine our values, national security, and economic prosperity.

We cannot allow that to happen.

History has shown us that early developers and adopters of technology define the marketplace, drive innovation, and reap the economic benefits, and so we must lead.

Moreover, as we have seen with the recent news on the Salt Typhoon cyberattack, foreign adversaries often see our communications networks and devices as the entry points to disrupt our daily lives and conduct espionage campaigns. Therefore, it is imperative that American interests are at the table as new wireless standards are crafted, including those that have cybersecurity and national security implications.

I thank Representatives DINGELL, KUSTER, and WALBERG for their bipartisan work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), the bill's sponsor.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of my legislation, H.R. 1377, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act.

This important legislation strengthens American leadership in 5G and fu-

ture wireless communications by bringing together key stakeholders to create a unified approach to international standards-setting.

It directs the NTIA to assist and encourage trusted U.S. companies to actively participate in global standards-setting organizations, such as 3GPP and IEEE.

These independent, business-led entities establish the technical standards that 5G operators, equipment manufacturers, software providers, and others rely on to build wireless networks.

China and other adversaries are investing heavily in 5G deployment and are actively working to shape these standards-setting processes to serve their interests. If they succeed in skewing future standards toward their own priorities, the United States risks being placed at a significant economic and strategic disadvantage.

As we did with 3G and 4G, the United States must continue leading the way on 5G. H.R. 1377 ensures a coordinated approach to counter foreign influence by protecting our national security, our economic competitiveness, and global technology leadership.

Finally, this will be my last act for now as a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. It has been a wonderful, productive 8 years. I have worked on such a wide set of policies such as increasing energy independence, protecting kids online, fighting electric vehicle mandates, championing American innovators, improving nationwide connectivity, and much, much more.

My colleagues and the many staff I have worked with have made my time on the Energy and Commerce Committee great.

I see why this committee is often called the best committee on the Hill, though I am going to challenge you for that title over at the Education and the Workforce Committee.

I thank the incredible leadership of Chair RODGERS and former Chair WALDEN, and I wish Chair-elect GUTHRIE all the best.

As my last ask, I encourage all my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, first I congratulate Representative WALBERG on his new leadership position, and I thank him for his collaboration on the committee over the years in leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the legendary gentleman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding. I hope I am not too legendary.

I rise today, and I also want to compliment my colleague from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), who I am proud to have worked with on this bill. I will miss him on the Energy and Commerce Committee, but education and labor matter in Michigan, too, so we will make sure his voice is well represented. Maybe he will even trust me on EVs.

I rise today in support of a bill that I worked with my colleague on, H.R.

1377, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act. I am very proud to have introduced this bill along with my bipartisan co-chairs of the 5G and Beyond Caucus.

This legislation will ensure that the United States remains at the forefront of innovation in this evolving frontier by playing a central role in setting international wireless standards in emerging technologies. This approach has dramatic ramifications for our global competitiveness, 5G deployment, and our national security.

The policy choices of today will have lasting effects on the global wireless technology development of tomorrow, especially as we compete against China.

We must take concrete, proactive steps to lower barriers to entry for U.S. companies and promote American competitiveness in this space for each subsequent generation of these innovative technologies.

I know there are times when we don't all agree in this House, but we have a very bipartisan agreement that the United States must be a leader in the development and deployment of cutting-edge technologies. This bill does exactly that, and I am glad that today we are getting this one over the finish line in a very bipartisan manner—or at least I think we are.

I thank my colleague, Representative TIM WALBERG, who I have loved working with on 5G and hope we will continue to; Representative KUSTER; and former Representative BILL JOHNSON for their work on this legislation and as co-chairs and being the leads on this.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1377.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, in support H.R. 1377, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2023.

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Mr. Speaker, I thank the bipartisan sponsors of this bill for working to protect our national security and global competitiveness.

Our adversaries such as China are working diligently to gain an edge over the U.S. when it comes to wireless technology and deployment.

Let me be clear. Economic security is national security. Again, economic security is national security.

It is imperative that we maintain our lead in the wireless space specifically with 5G advancement. We must continue to be at the front line of innovation which means participating in international standard-setting organizations.

I was proud to support this legislation when it passed committee unanimously, and I urge my colleagues to support this act as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to pay my respects to Chairman WALBERG and

congratulate him on his new chairmanship. I will miss sitting beside him in Energy and Commerce. It has been a pleasure to work with him for the last 8 years.

Mr. Speaker, I would also be remiss if I did not mention that in the first year of this session, I had the opportunity to serve as vice chair of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee. I thank Chairman LATTA for the wonderful job that he did and for his inclusion of me in all of our meetings and his leadership on this great subcommittee and on this great committee in Energy and Commerce.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, let's pass H.R. 1377, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act of 2023 and boldly lead the charge toward 6G and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, the Communications and Technology Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee has been very busy this past Congress making sure that we get broadband deployed across this country. This piece of legislation will help make sure that that happens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LOPEZ). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1377.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### EXPEDITING FEDERAL BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT REVIEWS ACT

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3293) to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish an interagency strike force to ensure that certain Federal land management agencies, including the organizational units of such agencies, prioritize the review of requests for communications use authorizations, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3293

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Expediting Federal Broadband Deployment Reviews Act".

#### SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERAGENCY STRIKE FORCE.

(a) INTERAGENCY STRIKE FORCE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this

Act, the Assistant Secretary shall establish an interagency strike force to ensure that each Federal land management agency, including each organizational unit of the agency, prioritizes the review of requests for communications use authorizations.

(2) MEMBERS.—The strike force shall be composed of—

(A) the Assistant Secretary;

(B) the head of each Federal land management agency;

(C) a designee of the Secretary of Agriculture, other than the Chief of the Forest Service; and

(D) a designee of the Secretary of the Interior, other than the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(3) DUTIES.—The duties of the strike force shall include—

(A) conducting periodic calls between the members of the strike force to ensure that each Federal land management agency, including each organizational unit of the agency, prioritizes the review of requests for communications use authorizations;

(B) establishing objective and reasonable goals for the review of requests for communications use authorizations; and

(C) monitoring, and facilitating the accountability of, each Federal land management agency, including each organizational unit of the agency, with respect to meeting such goals.

(4) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the effectiveness of the strike force in ensuring that each Federal land management agency, including each organizational unit of the agency, prioritizes the review of requests for communications use authorizations.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives;

(C) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term "Assistant Secretary" means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

(3) COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY.—The term "communications facility" has the meaning given the term "communications facility installation" in section 6409(d) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1455(d)).

(4) COMMUNICATIONS USE.—The term "communications use" means the placement and operation of a communications facility.

(5) COMMUNICATIONS USE AUTHORIZATION.—The term "communications use authorization" means an easement, right-of-way, lease, license, or other authorization—

(A) provided by a Federal land management agency;

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

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

(6) COVERED LAND.—The term "covered land" means—

(A) public lands; and

(B) National Forest System land.