

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 22, 2026

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

As members of the Illinois Delegation, we are writing to express our strong support for the approval of Illinois' Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Final Proposal.

The BEAD Program provides states with federal grants to ensure that every American has access to high-speed internet. Illinois' Final Proposal will use the \$1.04 billion grant to connect 156,994 locations across the state, with more than 135,000 of those in rural, underserved areas. Within the state, 100 percent of the eligible locations will receive high-speed internet through a mix of technologies, all while staying within the budget. The State of Illinois has leveraged the BEAD grant to secure more than \$575 million in private funding.

In September 2025, the Illinois Office of Broadband submitted its BEAD Final Proposal to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Following further conversation with NTIA in March 2026, the Illinois Office of Broadband worked expeditiously to submit revisions by early April. It is our understanding that your approval is the final step before these broadband projects can begin.

Farmers, schools, and businesses in Illinois are depending on these funds to enable critical services like precision agriculture, telemedicine, and workforce opportunities. We recognize the U.S. Department of Commerce's dedication to the BEAD Program and ensuring that Illinoisans receive high-quality, affordable internet. The Illinois Office of Broadband and our offices stand ready to ensure that the goals of the program are met through Illinois' Final Proposal.

The Illinois Delegation urges your earlier consideration of Illinois' BEAD grant to unlock essential broadband access for households and businesses in Illinois. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



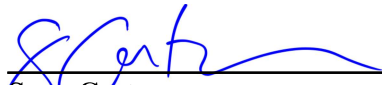
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



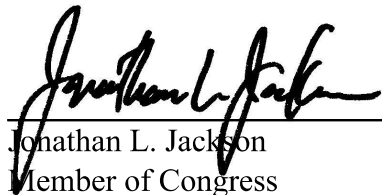
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



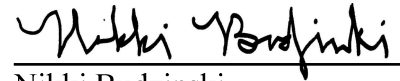
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



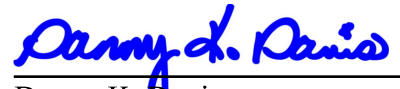
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



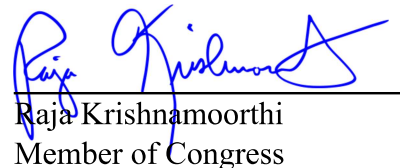
Nikki Budzinski
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Danny K. Davis
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
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