



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

June 22, 2021

Mr. Gary Bolton
President & CEO
Fiber Broadband Association
3050 K Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Mr. Bolton:

Generations ago, the Federal Government recognized that without affordable access to electricity, Americans could not fully participate in modern society and the modern economy. Broadband Internet is the new electricity. Broadband is necessary for Americans to do their jobs, to participate equally in school learning, to access health care, and to stay connected.

President Biden has proposed a bold \$100 billion investment to bring universal, reliable, high-speed, and affordable coverage to every family in America. Today, Americans in rural areas and on tribal lands particularly lack broadband access. In urban areas, there is a stark digital divide: a much higher percentage of White families use home broadband internet than Black or Latino families. Widespread affordable coverage promises to bridge these disparities, bring the benefits of the digital age to all, and transform our economy just as electrification did nearly 100 years ago.

I am writing to ask for your help. The Federal Government's maps of today's broadband are imperfect. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has broadband maps for the entire country; however, the current maps only go to the census block level, and new, more granular, maps are still in the planning phase. To help address this issue, Congress directed the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), an agency of the Department of the Commerce, to update the national broadband map. NTIA has created the National Broadband Availability Map (NBAM), a geographic information system platform that allows for the visualization and analysis of Federal, state, and commercially available data sets. The NBAM contains a mix of public and non-public data and was designed for use by state and Federal broadband policymakers to better inform broadband investment and policy decisions. NBAM integrates the FCC data, data from other Federal and state agencies, and commercial data to obtain the most complete view of broadband access that exists today.

Soon, NTIA will make a version of the NBAM publicly available to increase awareness of the need for broadband in certain parts of the country. Our data would be better if broadband availability data from your members were added to the NBAM. I am asking that your members submit their maps and underlying broadband availability data to us at the greatest level of detail

Mr. Gary Bolton
Page 2

they can share. We will work with them to add their data to the NBAM. At your request, we will hold your members' individual maps and data confidential within the secure cloud-based NBAM platform and only share aggregated results publicly. The aggregated results will be a powerful asset to drive our broadband investment.

Accurate and comprehensive maps are critical to our ability to target this historic investment where it is most needed – and ensure that no household is missed. Without your data, our investment might be delayed or, worse, we might fall short in our goal to reach 100% of households.

NTIA obtained OMB approval for a voluntary information collection of broadband availability data in support of the NBAM under OMB Control No. 0660-0043. For more information on how your members can participate in this program and provide broadband availability data, please visit NTIA's Broadband Availability Data Collection website at <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/data-and-mapping>.

Thank you for your leadership as we continue to work to achieve the President's vision of nationwide high-speed broadband Internet for all.

Sincerely,



Gina M. Raimondo