

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 23, 2023

The Honorable Alan Davidson  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information and NTIA Administrator  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Independence Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Davidson:

We appreciate your recent outreach to our offices following the release of the new FCC broadband maps, and want to take one last opportunity to reiterate the importance of fully considering all of Alaska's unique circumstances when making the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program allocation later this month.

As we have discussed with you and Secretary Raimondo since IJA's passage, the BEAD program's high cost set-aside will be critical for Alaska to ensure that we have the resources necessary to provide "internet for all" of Alaska. This set aside is the perfect opportunity for NTIA to properly weigh Alaska's unique factors that make it so costly and difficult to deploy broadband infrastructure. The IJA lists several factors for the NTIA to consider, including an area's remoteness, lack of population density, unique topography, and poverty rates. Alaska's State Broadband Office has provided to NTIA robust documentation outlining exactly how Alaska exemplifies these factors. Their documentation further provides a detailed capital expenditure analysis that estimates and justifies the extensive resources they will need to completely connect all of Alaska's unserved and underserved communities. These documents make clear that without sufficient resources from the high cost set-aside, Alaska may not be able to fulfil this statutory objective.

We hope these documents and your experience in Alaska will be instructive as you look to make the high cost determinations and final allocations. We look forward to continuing our work together to finally connect our vast state.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator



Mary Sattler Peltola  
Representative for All Alaska