



NATIONAL GRANGE

1616 H ST. NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20006 | PHONE (202) 628-3507 | FAX (202) 347-1091
WWW.NATIONALGRANGE.ORG | INFO@NATIONALGRANGE.ORG

American Values. Hometown Roots.

January 24, 2023

Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC 20554

Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel,

I am writing to you today to inquire as to the status of the Federal Communication Commission's rulemaking process for removing barriers to broadband deployment. The National Grange has been the voice of rural America in Washington for over 150 years and today advocates on behalf of over 150,000 grassroots members throughout the country. Advocacy for rural America has always meant advocacy for equal access, from early battles for rural electrification and rural mail service to the fight to close the digital divide today.

In order to close the digital divide, it is essential to address barriers to broadband deployment expeditiously. Barriers such as rights of way, poll attachment fees, slow permitting, and more have the potential to limit the reach and impact of broadband deployment. Last year, we were encouraged to see the FCC begin a rulemaking process to address these and other barriers to deployment relating to the broadband funds included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. However, with nearly a year gone by since the start of the rulemaking process rural America is wondering when these guidelines will be issued so that broadband deployment projects can begin to move at a more rapid pace.

It is essential that barriers to broadband deployment be addressed as soon as possible so that rural Americans can finally catch up to their suburban and urban counterparts and enjoy the many advantages of a broadband connection. The National Grange looks forward to the issuance of FCC guidelines addressing barriers to broadband deployment, there's not a minute to waste.

Sincerely,

Betsy Huber
President