

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4459

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the capability of the Appalachian Regional Commission to include satellites in broadband projects, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 30, 2026

Mr. HUSTED (for himself and Ms. ALSOBROOKS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the capability of the Appalachian Regional Commission to include satellites in broadband projects, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Expanding Appa-  
5 lachia’s Broadband Access Act”.

6 **SEC. 2 GAO STUDY ON SATELLITE BROADBAND.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
8 date of enactment of this section, the Comptroller General

1 of the United States shall conduct, and submit to Con-  
2 gress the results thereof, a study on the capability of the  
3 Appalachian Regional Commission to incorporate satellites  
4 in broadband projects.

5 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the study under  
6 subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United  
7 States shall—

8 (1) review the capacity of satellite broadband  
9 services to be used for business purposes;

10 (2) evaluate economic development growth in  
11 areas that have used satellite broadband for busi-  
12 nesses; and

13 (3) analyze the cost-effectiveness of imple-  
14 menting broadband via satellites for economic devel-  
15 opment.

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