

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 866

To require executive agencies to take steps to better meet the statutory deadline for processing communications use applications, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 5, 2025

Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. BARRASSO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To require executive agencies to take steps to better meet the statutory deadline for processing communications use applications, 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 “Accelerating
5 Broadband Permits Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TRACKING AND IMPROVING PROCESSING TIMES**
 2 **FOR COMMUNICATIONS USE APPLICATIONS.**

3 Section 6409(b)(3) of the Middle Class Tax Relief
 4 and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1455(b)(3)) is
 5 amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(E) TRACKING AND IMPROVING PROC-
 7 ESSING TIMES.—

8 “(i) DATA CONTROLS.—An executive
 9 agency shall develop controls to ensure
 10 that data is sufficiently accurate and com-
 11 plete to track the processing time for each
 12 application described in subparagraph (A).

13 “(ii) REQUIREMENT TO ANALYZE, AD-
 14 DRESS, AND REPORT ON DELAY FAC-
 15 TORS.—With respect to the factors that
 16 contribute to delays in processing applica-
 17 tions described in subparagraph (A), an
 18 executive agency shall—

19 “(I) analyze the factors as the
 20 delays are occurring;

21 “(II) take actions to address the
 22 factors; and

23 “(III) provide an annual report
 24 on the factors to—

1 “(aa) the Committee on
2 Commerce, Science, and Trans-
3 portation of the Senate;

4 “(bb) the Committee on En-
5 ergy and Natural Resources of
6 the Senate;

7 “(cc) the Committee on En-
8 ergy and Commerce of the House
9 of Representatives;

10 “(dd) the Committee on
11 Natural Resources of the House
12 of Representatives; and

13 “(ee) each committee of
14 Congress with jurisdiction over
15 the executive agency.

16 “(iii) METHOD FOR ALERTING STAFF
17 TO AT-RISK APPLICATIONS.—An executive
18 agency shall establish a method to alert
19 employees of the executive agency to any
20 application described in subparagraph (A)
21 with respect to which the executive agency
22 is at risk of failing to meet the 270-day
23 deadline under that subparagraph.”.

1 **SEC. 3. MINIMUM BROADBAND PROJECT COST.**

2 Section 41001(6)(A) of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C.
3 4370m(6)(A)) is amended—

4 (1) in clause (iii), by striking “or” at the end;

5 (2) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (v);

6 and

7 (3) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

8 “(iv)(I) is subject to NEPA;

9 “(II) involves the construction of in-
10 frastructure for broadband; and

11 “(III) is likely to require a total in-
12 vestment of more than \$5,000,000; or”.

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