

**NOMINATION OF ARIELLE ROTH,
NOMINEE TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF
COMMERCE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION, NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS
AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION**

HEARING

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES SENATE**

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

MARCH 27, 2025

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

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CONTENTS

Hearing held on March 27, 2025	Page 1
Statement of Senator Cruz	1
Letter to Hon. Ted Cruz and Hon. Maria Cantwell from Mark Niemeyer, President, Western Fire Chiefs Association	42
Letter dated February 4, 2025 to Hon. Ted Cruz from Todd Schlekeway, President and CEO, NATE	43
Letter dated February 18, 2025 to Hon. John Thune, Hon. Chuck Schu- mer, Hon. Ted Cruz and Hon. Maria Cantwell from Nathan Leamer, Executive Director, Digital First Project; Ryan Walker, Executive Vice President, Heritage Action; Harold Furchtgott-Roth, Senior Fellow and Director, Center for the Economics of the Internet, Hudson Institute; Todd Schlekeway, President and CEO, NATE: The Communications Infrastructure Contractors Association; Mike O’Rielly, Senior Fellow, Free State Foundation; David Williams, President, Taxpayers Protec- tion Alliance; Evan Swarztrauber, Senior Fellow, Foundation for Amer- ican Innovation; Tom Hebert, Executive Director, Open Competition Center; Paul Winfree, PhD, President & CEO, Economic Policy Innova- tion Center; Terry Schilling, President, American Principles Project; James Erwin, Executive Director, Digital Liberty; Gerard Scimeca, Chairman, Consumer Action for a Strong Economy; Clare Morrell, Fel- low, Ethics and Public Policy Commission; Jeff Mazzella, President, Center For Individual Freedom; Aiden Buzzetti, President, Bull Moose Project; Yaël Ossowski, Deputy Director, Consumer Choice Center; Ian Adams, Executive Director, International Center for Law and Econom- ics; Caden Rosenbaum, Senior Policy Analyst, Libertas Institute; and Ashley Baker, Director of Public Policy, Committee For Justice	44
Letter dated February 28, 2025 to Hon. Ted Cruz and Hon. Maria Cant- well from James Erwin, Executive Director, Digital Liberty	47
Letter dated March 4, 2025 to Hon. Ted Cruz and Hon. Maria Cantwell from Jeffrey D. Shoaf, Chief Executive Officer, Associated General Con- tractors Association (AGC)	49
Letter dated March 4, 2025 to Hon. Ted Cruz and Hon. Maria Cantwell from ACT The App Association, Alliance for Telecommunications In- dustry Solutions, CEDIA, Consumer Technology Association, CTIA— The Wireless Association, GPS Innovation Alliance, INCOMPAS, Inter- net Infrastructure Coalition, Information Technology Industry Council, Institute for Education, USTelecom, TechNet, Wireless Infrastructure Association, and XR Association	50
Letter dated March 7, 2025 to Hon. Ted Cruz and Hon. Maria Cantwell from Shirley Bloomfield, Chief Executive Officer, NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association	52
Letter dated March 20, 2025 to Hon. Ted Cruz and Hon. Maria Cantwell from Grant Spellmeyer, President and CEO, ACA Connects: America’s Communication Association	53
Letter dated March 21, 2025 to Hon. Ted Cruz and Hon. Maria Cantwell from David Zumwalt, President and CEO, WISPA— <i>Broadband Without Boundaries</i>	55
Letter dated March 24, 2025 to Hon. Ted Cruz from Curtis J. LeGeyt, President and CEO, National Association of Broadcasters	57
Letter dated March 24, 2025 to Hon. Ted Cruz and Hon. Maria Cantwell from Jonathan Spalter, President and Chief Executive Officer, USTelecom	58

IV

	Page
Statement of Senator Cruz—Continued	
Letter dated March 25, 2025 to Hon. Ted Cruz and Honn. Maria Cantwell from Fire Chief Josh Waldo, CFO, EFO IAFC President and Board Chair 2024–2025	59
Letter dated March 25, 2025 to Hon. Ted Cruz and Hon. Maria Cantwell from Michael K. Powell, President and CEO, NCTA—The Internet & Television Association	60
Letter dated March 26, 2025 to Hon. Ted Cruz and Hon. Maria Cantwell from Patrick Yoes, National President, Fraternal Order of Police	61
Statement of Senator Cantwell	3
Statement of Senator Klobuchar	18
Statement of Senator Baldwin	19
Statement of Senator Moreno	21
Statement of Senator Kim	22
Statement of Senator Blunt Rochester	24
Statement of Senator Markey	25
Article from <i>Bloomberg</i> dated March 25, 2025 entitled “Musk’s Broadband Satellites Have Long-Term Costs, States Say” by Kelcee Griffis	28
Statement of Senator Hickenlooper	33
Statement of Senator Peters	35

WITNESSES

Hon. Roy Blunt, U.S. Senator from Missouri	4
Arielle Roth, Nominee to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communica- tions and Information, National Telecommunications and Information Ad- ministration	6
Prepared statement	7
Biographical information	8

APPENDIX

Response to written questions submitted to Arielle Roth by:	
Hon. John Thune	63
Hon. Deb Fischer	64
Hon. Dan Sullivan	65
Hon. Shelley Moore Capito	66
Hon. Maria Cantwell	68
Hon. Brian Schatz	81
Hon. Edward Markey	83
Hon. Gary Peters	85
Hon. Tammy Baldwin	86
Hon. Jacky Rosen	86
Hon. Ben Ray Luján	89
Hon. John Hickenlooper	91
Hon. Lisa Blunt Rochester	91

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NOMINEE TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OF COMMERCE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
AND INFORMATION, NATIONAL
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION**

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:15 p.m., in room SR-253, Russell Senate Office Building, Hon. Ted Cruz, Chairman of the Committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Cruz, Fischer, Moran, Young, Moreno, Sheehy, Cantwell, Klobuchar, Markey, Peters, Baldwin, Rosen, Hickenlooper, Kim, and Blunt Rochester.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. TED CRUZ,
U.S. SENATOR FROM TEXAS**

Chairman CRUZ. Good morning. This hearing will come to order.

Today, I am delighted to say we are considering the nomination of Arielle Roth to be the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information. If confirmed, Ms. Roth will lead the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the NTIA, at the Department of Commerce and will advise the President on telecommunications and information policy.

As folks here know, Arielle is an esteemed member of the Republican staff on this Committee. I am not sure I have ever met someone as passionate about telecommunications law and policy as Arielle. Her work ethic is indefatigable and only rivaled by her dedication to public service. If she is confirmed, President Trump's administration will be blessed to be getting her great talents.

For more than two years, Arielle has done an exceptional job as our telecommunications policy director. She has led our efforts to promote affordable connectivity, to protect the taxpayer against wasteful spending, and to promote economic innovation in telecom. And as a mother, she has been a tireless advocate for protecting children from excessive screen time and online harms.

If confirmed, Arielle will play an integral role in the management of the Federal Government's use of the electromagnetic spectrum. She will work closely with Federal agencies to protect critical uses of spectrum—whether for national defense, weather forecasting, or

transportation—while identifying opportunities to free up spectrum for commercial use. As I have stated before, American leadership in spectrum is vital to the security of global telecommunications networks, our own national security, and our economic success.

NTIA also plays a crucial role in administering billions of dollars for Federal broadband programs like the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment, the BEAD program. Due to inaction and ideological handwringing by the previous administration, to date, BEAD has not connected even a single American to high-speed Internet service. Hear that again—\$42 billion to connect zero human beings.

This is the result of prioritizing partisan requirements like “climate resiliency” and rate regulation over actually connecting those who are offline. Such requirements—which were never approved by Congress or codified in statute—had virtually nothing to do with BEAD’s intended purpose. Now we have an opportunity to strip away the fluff and to redirect the program back to its core mission of connecting Americans to broadband.

Arielle’s qualifications show that she is the right person for this job. Her telecommunication experience dates back to her time as a legal fellow at the Hudson Institute Center for Economics of the Internet. Then, for four years, Ms. Roth served at the Federal Communications Commission as the Wireless Advisor for then-Commissioner Michael O’Rielly.

Ms. Roth next turned to Congress, where she worked on telecommunications policy at the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and later as legislative counsel to our friend, Senator Roy Blunt, a long-serving former member of this Committee who has come back to join us today.

Simply put, her experience, both in Congress and at the FCC, makes her ideally suited to lead NTIA.

I have received letters of support for Ms. Roth from major telecommunications groups representing sectors from radio to Internet to broadband. I wholeheartedly support her confirmation and look forward to hearing more about her approach to managing NTIA. And I would note that she is joined by her beautiful family—her husband, her five children, and number six, which could arrive at any time, including during this hearing. So I am going to ask all of my colleagues to be gentle unless we have to call our colleague, Roger Marshall, to deliver a child during a confirmation hearing. But I am hopeful the timing will not exactly—

Senator CANTWELL. I thought he was an ophthalmologist.

[Laughter.]

Chairman CRUZ. No, no, no. Roger has delivered like 5,000 babies.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. That is Rand Paul.

Chairman CRUZ. That is Rand. Rand would do eye surgery, which would not be the right response. But Roger would be up to the task.

And with that I recognize the Ranking Member for her opening remarks.

**STATEMENT OF HON. MARIA CANTWELL,
U.S. SENATOR FROM WASHINGTON**

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and congratulations on your nomination. Welcome to your family, all coordinated there, and this crucial role that NTIA plays in administering billions of dollars in broadband expansion and managing the use of Federal spectrum. You have a good advocate next to you, who we miss having here on the Committee, and we look forward to hearing from Senator Blunt in a few minutes.

Ms. Roth, I expect to have a very substantive conversation about your vision and priorities for NTIA. I want to hear from you about your plans for leading this agency. You have worked on and spoken publicly about many of these issues for several years, so I expect we can have that robust discussion.

The \$42 billion BEAD Equity, Access, and Development program I am sure is top of mind for many members here today, as it is for me. But just to clarify, when Senator Wicker and I were working together as the Chair and Ranking Member for this Committee, we did not pass this legislation out of Committee. It was worked by a group of bipartisan members on the Senate floor. I think it is safe to say that both Senator Wicker and I objected to that process, because we thought the Committee of jurisdiction should be listened to, and that there would be some haphazardness with the program as it then would be implemented.

In my home state, where Microsoft has better broadband maps than the FCC, it is frustrating to my constituents, but we do not agree with Secretary Lutnick's announcement to just clear out the changes to the broadband program. One of the proposals in the broadband program we think is being worked successfully is the Middle Mile Program, by our colleague Senator Rosen and others, that was also sponsored by myself and the Senator from West Virginia, because we think that fiber broadband is a really good solution for lots of different reasons, certainly on the security level.

So we do believe that changes could undermine the goals of helping states achieve these goals and connect all their residents. I hope that you will commit today to allowing states to proceed, not just Washington or states like Delaware, Nevada, and Louisiana, which are ready to do shovel-ready projects, but hear from you about how you see those plans being carried out.

My concerns about delays and uncertainty of the program is that while Elon Musk and others have solutions in the marketplace—they certainly have been deployed in my state—people want to understand and make sure there are not conflicts of interest there and want to understand how those policies and prospects are going to be dealt with.

I am also concerned that President Trump's tariffs will impact the cost of materials and ultimately cost us more in driving up broadband costs. A new study by Pricewaterhousecoopers indicates that the proposed tariffs could cost about \$126 billion or more across the technology and telecommunications sector. Ultimately tariffs mean higher costs, and higher costs mean the dollars will not go as far.

Also, the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program is of great interest. It is critical to advancing broadband deployment on Tribal

lands as well as important Internet adoptions and skill rates. Nineteen Tribes in Washington have received funds from the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program to ensure that high-speed, reliable Internet is affordable across Tribal Indian Country. So there is also about \$1 billion left to award, and NTIA must expeditiously, in my opinion, award those Tribal dollars.

Mr. Chairman, there are many times that this Committee and the Indian Affairs Committee go back and forth over this, I would say that the summation of this has been a lot of frustration about telecom policy not getting carried out in Indian Country, and then they are being the more directive \$2 billion program that was part of the BEAD package saying to NTIA, "No, no, no. You do this. We want direct accountability." So we will want to hear about that direct accountability in Indian Country.

There are other issues that we would like to hear about, particularly on the issue of cybersecurity and cyberattacks, including the one at Sea-Tac Airport and the nationwide Salt Typhoon attack. These are just only increasing in frequency.

NTIA is also responsible for managing spectrum, as you mentioned, Mr. Chairman, and this job that Ms. Roth is seeking will serve as the President's principal advisor on these issues. I have long advocated for an evidence-based approach to spectrum management and the many challenges we face. During the first Trump administration, the race to bring spectrum to commercial market without proper studies or interagency coordination, most notably auctioning of the C-band for 5G without coordination with the FAA. The risk of this interference and confusion that it means to grounding flights is something we need to avoid in the future.

We also need to have a clear conversation about our national security interests. And I know that this is something that Ms. Roth has had a lot of attention on, as here in the Committee we have had a discussion about middle-band spectrum. So I look forward to asking you about how we preserve our national security agenda. That is why I believe that the NTIA Administrator on this issue is so critically important. There is a lot to do to achieve security and competitiveness for our Nation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman CRUZ. Thank you. I now recognize our friend and former colleague, the Senator from the great state of Missouri, Roy Blunt. And I would note that when he was here one of the things that Senator Blunt took the lead on was renovating this hearing room. And as Ranking Member Cantwell observed, he built this fancy dais with all this high tech here, and she said she suggested at the time we should put a plaque naming this the Blunt Dais, and I think that is an excellent idea. And I am hereby instructing my staff to make it happen, because it is a great idea.

And with that, Senator Blunt, you are recognized to introduce the nominee.

**STATEMENT OF HON. ROY BLUNT,
U.S. SENATOR FROM MISSOURI**

Senator BLUNT. Thank you. You might have to include Senator Klobuchar on that dais, as the Ranking Member at the time, and a great person to work with. But great to be here with you.

Chairman CRUZ. We will take that as a friendly amendment.

Senator BLUNT. A friendly amendment. You and I both had the opportunity to work with Arielle. Your comments about her work ethic, her dedication to the job, and her family and her country all are good, and I am really delighted to be here. Glad to be here with you and Ranking Member Senator Cantwell, members of the Committee. I am happy to be back in the Commerce Committee. I served for 12 years on the House Commerce Committee, and 12 years on this Committee, and I liked every day of it.

I am most pleased to be here with Arielle Roth. She is here because of her nomination to be the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information. I think she is exactly the kind of thorough and principled leader the President, Secretary Lutnick, and our fellow citizens need to have and should have in this job.

Many of you have come to know her well because she has worked for the Committee for the past 2 years, and for Chairman Cruz. Prior to her time leading the telecommunications oversight for the Chairman, Arielle was a trusted legislative counsel in my office, from August 2021 until I retired in January 2023. During that time, she handled the entire breadth of our Commerce Committee portfolio. Everything from travel and tourism to broadband and telecommunications policy was something she worked on, worked with members of this Committee to shepherd the lasting bipartisan bills to the President's desk, that included restoring the Brand USA. I did that with Senator Klobuchar; as the principal sponsor of the Low-Power TV Protection Act, with Senator Wyden and Senator Klobuchar, were all things that Arielle Roth worked on.

Before joining my office, as you said, Chairman, she had worked for the FCC and on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Obviously, very helpful experience for the job she has been nominated to.

As many of you know, one of my chief priorities as Senator was to expand broadband access in underserved communities. When I started working on that problem, two-thirds of Missourians did not have access to adequate high-speed broadband. It is still 30 percent so there is still a lot to be done. Arielle understood that as we worked together on this, and was dedicated to trying to deliver those services to people who were unserved.

And finally, she is surrounded, as you mentioned, Mr. Chairman, by a supportive and growing family. Frankly, when she worked with me I wondered how could you have five kids and be at work every day, but she was, and was dedicated to her work, dedicated to her family, dedicated to her faith. Faith and family are an important foundation for those to be entrusted with public trust, and she certainly exemplifies that.

I know she will serve with distinction as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, and I could not be more proud of her today, nor could I be more pleased to be here with her today.

Chairman CRUZ. Thank you, Senator Blunt. I will now recognize Ms. Roth for her opening statement, and she is welcome to say anything she likes. But the one thing that is mandatory is she is obliged to introduce her beautiful family.

**STATEMENT OF ARIELLE ROTH, NOMINEE TO BE ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION, NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION**

Ms. ROTH. Will do. Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and distinguished members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, I am deeply humbled to testify before you today and grateful to President Trump for nominating me to serve our great nation as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

It is a particular honor to testify before the Senate Commerce Committee. I have tremendous respect for this Committee's accomplished members, hardworking staff, and record of bipartisan work. Over the past four years, I have been fortunate to work for two esteemed public servants on this committee. Chairman Cruz, working for you to advance economic growth, innovation, and the rule of law has been an extraordinary privilege. Senator Blunt, thank you for your mentorship in pragmatism, bipartisanship, and civic virtue.

I have also had the honor of working for some of the most principled and respected experts in the telecom field: Former FCC Commissioners Harold Furchtgott-Roth and Mike O'Rielly and former Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau, Kris Monteith.

Of course, none of these opportunities would have been possible without the support of my family. My parents, Dr. Mark and Peggi Rabinovitch, who are here today, instilled in me values of compassion, gratitude, perseverance, and community service. My husband and soulmate, Yaakov, is the most incredible husband and father. Our children, Samson, Nina, Gefen, Rory, and Judah, are my life's greatest blessings, and I thank God every day for the privilege of being their mother.

I have experienced firsthand the incredible opportunities America has to offer. This country has given me, and countless others, the freedom to pursue our dreams, and build a better country for the next generation.

As a person of deep Jewish faith, it is moving to me to offer my testimony on the eve of Passover, the holiday in which we celebrate the triumph of freedom over tyranny. Our Rabbis teach us that true liberation comes not just from physical freedom but from spiritual freedom achieved through the pursuit of wisdom, education, and ethical action. It is in this spirit that I dedicate myself to the service of our country and ensuring opportunity is accessible to all Americans.

For the past decade, I have been lucky to work on a special kind of access to opportunity—expanding access to high-speed Internet—and assist lawmakers dedicated to advancing innovation, promoting public safety, defending taxpayers, and protecting children online. It has been my privilege to work on bipartisan legislation like the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act with Senator Markey; the SAT Streamlining Act with Senator Rosen; the Low Power Protection Act with Senators Wyden and Klobuchar; and the Kids Off Social Media Act with Senator Schatz. If confirmed, I will bring this experience and my understanding of the policy challenges we face today to the work of NTIA.

One of the most pressing tasks ahead of us is ensuring that we finish the job of expanding broadband access to unserved communities. Thanks to Congress's historic, bipartisan investments in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, NTIA has a responsibility to ensure that these funds are spent efficiently, expeditiously, and consistent with the laws written by Congress. I look forward to working with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to ensure that the BEAD program is a success and lives up to its bipartisan legacy.

I am also committed to harnessing the potential of our Nation's spectrum resources while safeguarding national security. As the President's primary telecommunications and spectrum advisor, NTIA's leadership is pivotal in ensuring our Nation's economic prosperity, technology leadership, and national security. NTIA also plays an important role in shaping U.S. positions before international standard-setting bodies, and it is essential that these decisions reflect U.S. interests. I look forward to working with NTIA's distinguished career staff, from whom I have learned so much over the past few years, to advance these policies.

Finally, one of the most pressing communications issues facing our Nation today is one that is close to home: how to protect children from online threats and excessive screen use. As a mother of five—God willing, soon to be six—I know firsthand what a struggle it can be to monitor and limit kids' Internet and screen time. If confirmed as NTIA Administrator, I will look for ways to support the Administration on addressing these challenges for parents and children.

I look forward to working with Members of Congress, Commerce Secretary Lutnick, and other key stakeholders to advance these important policies, and I am eager to contribute to the continued growth and success of our Nation's communications networks.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak with you today. I am grateful for your consideration and look forward to answering your questions.

[The prepared statement and biographical information of Ms. Roth follow:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF ARIELLE ROTH, NOMINEE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF
COMMERCE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and distinguished members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

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It is a particular honor to testify before the Senate Commerce Committee. I have tremendous respect for this committee's accomplished members, hardworking staff, and record of bipartisan work. Over the past four years, I have been fortunate to work for two esteemed public servants on this committee.

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Thank you again for the opportunity to speak with you today. I am grateful for your consideration and look forward to answering your questions.

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used):
Arielle Sandra Roth (maiden name: Arielle Sandra Rabinovitch)
2. Position to which nominated: Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information
3. Date of Nomination: February 3, 2025.
4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):
Residence: Information not released to the public.
Office: Dirksen Senate Office Building, #512 50 Constitution Ave NE, Washington, DC 20001.
5. Date and Place of Birth: Montreal, Canada.

6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) or domestic partner, and the names and ages of your children (including step-children and children by a previous marriage).

Spouse: Jacob ("Yaakov") Moshe Roth, Partner, Jones Day, 51 Louisiana Ave NW Washington, DC 20001.

7. List all college and graduate schools attended, whether or not you were granted a degree by the institution. Provide the name of the institution, the dates attended, the degree received, and the date of the degree.

McGill University Faculty of Law, August 2009–December 2012

- *Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Civil Law (LLB–BCL), June 2013*

Georgetown University Law Center, August 2011–December 2011

- *Visiting student (no degree)*

University of Toronto, August 2005–June 2009

- *Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, June 2008*
- *Began master's program in Political Theory in Fall 2008 but left to attend law school mid-program.*

8. List all post-undergraduate employment, including the job title, name of employer, and inclusive dates of employment, and highlight all management-level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.

- Policy Director, Telecommunications, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, January 2023 to present*
- Legislative Counsel, U.S. Senator Roy Blunt, August 2021–January 2023**
- FCC Attorney on Detail, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, April 2021–August 2021**

Attorney Advisor, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, January 2021–April 2021**

Wireline Advisor, Office of Commissioner Michael O'Rielly, Federal Communications Commission, September 2018–January 2021**

- Legal Advisor, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, September 2017–September 2018**
- Legal Fellow, Center for the Economics of the Internet, Hudson Institute, July 2015–September 2017**
- Intern, Federalist Society, May 2010–August 2010

* Denotes management-level job that is relevant to the position for which I have been nominated.

** Denotes non-managerial job that is relevant to the position for which I have been nominated.

9. Attach a copy of your résumé.

See Attachment A.

10. List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above after 18 years of age. None.

11. List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution. None.

12. List all memberships you have had after 18 years of age or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religiously affiliated organization, private club, or other membership organization (You do not have to list your religious affiliation or membership in a religious house of worship or institution). Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. Please note whether any such club or organization restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

Federalist Society

- I have been a member since 2016.
- I have been a member of Telecommunications & Electronic Media Practice Group Executive Committee since 2017.

Federal Communications Bar Association

- I have been a member periodically since 2017.

Massachusetts Bar

- I have been a member in active standing since 2016.

Conservative Party of Canada

- Before moving to the U.S. in 2011, I was a member periodically since approximately 2004.

None of these groups restricts membership on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt. No.

14. List all memberships and offices held with and services rendered to, whether compensated or not, any political party or election committee within the past ten years. If you have held a paid position or served in a formal or official advisory position (whether compensated or not) in a political campaign within the past ten years, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, year of the campaign, and your title and responsibilities. None.

15. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of \$200 or more for the past ten years.

Trump 47 Committee (October 8, 2024)—\$600

- The FEC website lists this donation twice, once under “Trump 47 Committee, Inc.” and again under “Never Surrender, Inc.” However, I made a single \$600 donation to the Trump 47 Committee on Oct. 8, 2024.

Trump National Committee (July 17, 2024)—\$1800

- The FEC website breaks this single \$1800 donation into multiple entries: one for “Trump National Committee JFC, Inc.” and separate donations to “Never Surrender, Inc.” (\$1620) and the “Republican National Committee” (\$180). I only made a single \$1800 donation to the Trump National Committee on July 17, 2024.

Additional donations on July 13, 2024

- The FEC website also lists donations totaling \$1800 on July 13, 2024. These included a \$180 donation to the Republican National Committee and a \$1620 donation to Never Surrender. I mistakenly made these donations under my maiden name (Arielle Rabinovitch) and cancelled them immediately after realizing the error.

16. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

- Koch Summer Fellow (2010)
- High Distinction, University of Toronto (2008)

17. List all books, articles, columns, letters to the editor, Internet blog postings, or other publications you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication when available.

“Turning Down the Heat on Net Neutrality: A View from Our Northern Neighbor,” Arielle Roth (July 15, 2017), <https://www.hudson.org/economics/turning-down-the-heat-on-net-neutrality-a-view-from-our-northern-neighbor>

“The Disingenuous Campaign Against Media Consolidation,” Arielle Roth, Washington Examiner (June 2, 2017), <https://www.hudson.org/economics/the-disingenuous-campaign-against-media-consolidation>

“Corrosive Legal Uncertainty Remains after DC Circuit’s Rehearing Denial in ‘Net Neutrality’ Case,” Arielle Roth, Washington Legal Foundation Legal Pulse (May 12, 2017), <https://www.hudson.org/economics/corrosive-legal-uncertainty-remains-after-dc-circuit-s-rehearing-denial-in-net-neutrality-case>

“A Communications Reform Priority: Curtailing FCC Ancillary Jurisdiction Under Telecom Act § 706,” Arielle Roth, Washington Legal Foundation Critical Issues Working Paper Series (Feb. 2017), <https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.hudson.org/files/publications/201702RothWP.pdf>

“How a Trump FCC Could Deregulate the Communications Sector,” Harold Furchtgott-Roth and Arielle Roth, Forbes Online (Nov. 10, 2016), <https://www.hudson.org/economics/how-a-trump-fcc-could-deregulate-the-communications-sector>

“Sixth Circuit Protects Federalism from an Overreaching Federal Communications Commission,” Harold Furchtgott-Roth and Arielle Roth, Washington Legal Foundation Legal Pulse (Aug. 18, 2016), <https://www.hudson.org/economics/sixth-circuit-protects-federalism-from-an-overreaching-federal-communications-commission>

“Three Issues to Watch as the FCC Writes Privacy Rules for Broadband Companies,” Arielle Roth, American Bar Association Administrative and Regulatory Law News (Aug. 15, 2016), <https://www.hudson.org/economics/three-issues-to-watch-as-the-fcc-writes-privacy-rules-for-broadband-companies>

“How the FCC’s Proposed Privacy Rules Would Create a False Sense of Consumer Privacy,” Harold Furchtgott-Roth and Arielle Roth, Forbes Online (March 31, 2016), <https://www.hudson.org/economics/how-the-fcc-s-proposed-privacy-rules-would-create-a-false-sense-of-consumer-privacy>

“Why the FCC’s Proposed Privacy Rules Would Hurt Consumers,” Harold Furchtgott-Roth and Arielle Roth, Forbes Online (March 14, 2016), <https://www.hudson.org/economics/why-the-fcc-s-proposed-privacy-rules-would-hurt-consumers>

“How the FCC Betrayed America’s Faith in the Rule of Law,” Harold Furchtgott-Roth and Arielle Roth, Forbes Online (March 2, 2016), <https://www.hudson.org/economics/how-the-fcc-betrayed-america-s-faith-in-the-rule-of-law>

“Tim Cook’s Sleight of Hand,” Harold Furchtgott-Roth and Arielle Roth, Forbes Online (Feb. 24, 2016), <https://www.hudson.org/national-security-defense/tim-cook-s-sleight-of-hand>

“Answering Four Questions on the Anniversary of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,” Harold Furchtgott-Roth and Arielle Roth, Federal Communications Law Journal (Feb. 12, 2016), <http://www.fclj.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/68.1.2-HFR-Comment.pdf>

“Racial Diversity Lawsuit Exposes Lawless FCC,” Arielle Roth, CapX (Feb. 8, 2016), <https://www.hudson.org/economics/racial-diversity-lawsuit-exposes-lawless-fcc>

“Net Neutrality’s Religious Freedom Problem,” Arielle Roth, CapX (Jan. 12, 2016), <https://www.hudson.org/technology/net-neutrality-s-religious-freedom-problem>

“Why Mark Zuckerberg Should Beware of the FCC,” Harold Furchtgott-Roth and Arielle Roth, Forbes Online (Dec. 11, 2015), <https://www.hudson.org/economics/why-mark-zuckerberg-should-beware-of-the-fcc>

“Why ISIS Celebrates the FCC’s Network Neutrality Rules,” Harold Furchtgott-Roth and Arielle Roth, CapX (Dec. 4, 2015), <https://www.hudson.org/national-security-defense/why-isis-celebrates-the-fcc-s-network-neutrality-rules>

“FCC Should Not Remain Silent on Berkeley’s Junk-Science Wireless Warnings,” Harold Furchtgott-Roth and Arielle Roth, Washington Legal Foundation Legal Pulse (Oct. 9, 2015), <https://www.hudson.org/technology/fcc-should-not-remain-silent-on-berkeley-s-junk-science-wireless-warnings>

“Constitutional Challenges to Dodd-Frank,” Arielle Rabinovitch, the Antitrust Bulletin (Dec. 1, 2013), <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0003603X1305800406?journalCode=abxa>

18. List all speeches, panel discussions, and presentations (e.g., PowerPoint) that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the speech or presentation when available.

Mobile World Congress, Wireless Leadership on the Hill: Panel (Oct. 8, 2024)

- Panelist
- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6chxilRKKE>

Federalist Society, “The Broadband Economy—\$42 Billion Infusion and a Newly-Minted Biden FCC: What lies ahead?” (June 11, 2024)

- Panelist

- Video: <https://fedsoc.org/events/the-broadband-economy-42-billion-infusion-and-a-newly-minted-biden-fcc-what-lies-ahead>

Federalist Society, “Consumers’ Research v. FCC and the Legality of the Universal Service Fund Contribution Regime” (July 19, 2022)

- Moderated panel discussion
- Video: <https://fedsoc.org/events/consumers-research-v-fcc-and-the-legality-of-the-universal-service-fund-contribution-regime>

NTCA Telecom Executive Policy Summit, FCC Staff Panel Discussion (Nov. 18, 2019)

- Panelist
- Recording not available.

19. List all public statements you have made during the past ten years, including statements in news articles and radio and podcasts and television appearances, which are on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated, including dates. Include a link to each statement when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the statement when available.

To my knowledge, I have not made any public statements that fit this category.

20. List all digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently or have formerly operated an account, regardless of whether or not the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the full name of an “alias” or “handle”, including the complete URL and username with hyperlinks, you have used on each of the named platforms. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant. Include a link to each account if possible.

X: @ArielleRoth, <https://x.com/ArielleRoth> (active)

Facebook: Arielle Roth, <https://www.facebook.com/arielle.roth.9/> (active)

Instagram: ariellerabroth, <https://www.instagram.com/ariellerabroth> (active)

LinkedIn: Arielle Roth, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/arielle-roth-868b8522> (active)

21. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date, committee, and subject matter of each testimony.

I have never testified orally or in writing before Congress.

22. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency/commission/corporation to which you have been nominated, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position?

Having served in senior roles in Congress and the FCC over the past decade, I bring significant experience and understanding of the policy issues facing our Nation today with respect to broadband connectivity, spectrum policy, and technological innovation. As Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, I would be honored to promote connectivity and free expression, advance U.S. technology leadership, and protect the interests of taxpayers.

23. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the department/agency/commission/corporation has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

If confirmed, I will work to ensure that NTIA operates efficiently and effectively to protect the interests of American taxpayers, including by promptly addressing recommendations and deficiencies identified by the Inspector General of the Department of Commerce and the Government Accountability Office. I believe that my experience with the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, managing staff and balancing the interests of members and outside parties with business before the Committee, will help me lead the agency effectively.

24. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/agency/commission/corporation, and why?

1. *Finishing the job of connecting all Americans to broadband internet:* Congress allocated a historic amount of funding to NTIA in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to connect Americans to broadband and it is incumbent on the agency to ensure that this funding is spent effectively, consistent with the law as written by Congress.
2. *Unlocking the potential of our Nation’s spectrum resources while protecting national security:* As the President’s primary advisor on spectrum, strong leader-

ship from NTIA is key to our Nation's economic prosperity, technology leadership, and security.

3. *Restoring America's leadership at international telecommunications standard-setting bodies:* NTIA has a critical role to play in developing U.S. positions at the International Telecommunications Union and World Radiocommunication Conference and ensuring international spectrum decisions are driven by U.S. interests—not those of our adversaries.

B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include information related to retirement accounts, such as a 401(k) or pension plan.

I have no such financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, or other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. My only pension arrangements are through my Federal government service.

2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, formal or informal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association, or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain. None.

3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the U.S. Office of Government Ethics and the Department of Commerce's Designated Agency Ethics Official to identify potential conflicts of interest. If confirmed, any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of the ethics agreement I have entered into with the Department's Designated Agency Ethics Official.

4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the U.S. Office of Government Ethics and the Department of Commerce's Designated Agency Ethics Official to identify potential conflicts of interest. If confirmed, any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of the ethics agreement I have entered into with the Department's Designated Agency Ethics Official.

5. Identify any other potential conflicts of interest and explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

6. Describe any activity during the past ten years, including the names of clients represented, in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy.

None, except in my role as a Congressional staffer.

C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics, professional misconduct, or retaliation by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, the Office of Special Counsel, an Inspector General, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? No.

If yes:

- a. Provide the name of the court, agency, association, committee, or group;
- b. Provide the date the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action was issued or initiated;
- c. Describe the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action;
- d. Provide the results of the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action.

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, municipal, or foreign government entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain. No.

3. Have you or any business or nonprofit of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding, criminal proceeding, or civil litigation? If so, please explain. No.

4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain. No.

5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual assault, sexual harassment, or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain. No.

6. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination. None.

D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency/commission/corporation complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency/commission/corporation endeavors to timely comply with requests for information from individual Members of Congress, including requests from members in the minority?

If confirmed, I would work diligently with my staff to ensure compliance with deadlines and requests for information.

2. Will you ensure that your department/agency/commission/corporation does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistleblowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures? Yes.

3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee? Yes.

4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so? Yes.

ATTACHMENT A

Arielle Roth

Security clearance: TS/SCI (active)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION**CHAIRMAN TED CRUZ**, Washington, DC*Policy Director, Telecommunications, January 2023-present*

- Lead staffer for Sen. Cruz's telecommunications and broadband policy agenda during both his tenure as Ranking Member (January 2023-January 2024) and Chairman (January 2024-present).
- Managed telecom committee staff's stakeholder engagement, oversight letters, reports, legislative drafting, and markup and hearing preparation; assisted other Senate offices in drafting and negotiating telecom legislation and shepherding bills through Congress; and advanced key pieces of Sen. Cruz's telecom agenda.

OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR ROY BLUNT, Washington, DC*Legislative Counsel, September 2021-December 2022*

- Led Senator Blunt's work on the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, including the introduction, mark up, and passage of the Low Power Protection Act (PL 117-344).

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, Washington, DC*FCC Attorney on Detail, Communications and Technology Subcommittee, April-August 2021*

- Assisted committee staff in drafting legislation, conducting oversight, and preparing for hearings.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, Washington, DC*Legal Advisor, Wireline Competition Bureau, September 2017-August 2018**Office of Commissioner Michael O'Rielly, September 2018-December 2020*

- Advised Commissioner O'Rielly on wireline and consumer protection issues before the Commission.
- Drafted and edited speeches, meeting statements, blog posts, press releases, and letters, and negotiated with Commission staff on key items before the FCC.

HUDSON INSTITUTE, Washington, DC*Legal Fellow, Center for the Economics of the Internet, July 2015-July 2017*

- Authored and co-authored articles on telecommunications law and regulation under the supervision of Center Director Harold Furchtgott-Roth (no relation).

EDUCATION

McGILL UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW, Montreal, Canada

LL.B. & B.C.L., June 2012

- Visiting Student, Georgetown University Law Center, Fall 2011

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

B.A. (Hon. with high distinction), Philosophy, June 2008

ADMITTED TO THE MASSACHUSETTS BAR, December 27, 2016-present

Chairman CRUZ. Before you are excused, Senator Blunt, I will say the Ranking Member asked if you also wore a pink tie to be in complete harmony.

Senator BLUNT. It is sort of pink. It is almost coordinated with the group. I am impressed by this coordination of the group myself.

Chairman CRUZ. Well, thank you. All right, we will start with questioning.

As I noted in my opening statement, your extensive policy experience is impressive and makes you eminently qualified to lead NTIA. I appreciate your many years of public service, including your very hard work as a part of my team here on this Committee.

Why don't we start with this. Why do you want to be the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. Expanding access to communications and technology is extremely meaningful work. It has lifted people out of poverty. It has fostered innovation. It has expanded opportunities for speech and information. NTIA has an incredible opportunity to deliver on these goals through broadband, through spectrum, as well as through advising the President on Internet policy. I intend to ensure that NTIA succeeds in these missions.

Chairman CRUZ. As you noted, the NTIA is the lead agency for managing Federal spectrum, including critical midband spectrum. Over the past several years, Majority Leader Thune, Senator Blackburn, and I have collaborated on a bill that would require NTIA to identify a clear pipeline of midband spectrum that can be used more efficiently, and following feasibility studies and established processes, allow for commercial use. To lead the world in 5G and 6G, to bolster our economy, and to ensure that it is America and not China that sets the technology standards of the future, we must expand commercial access to midband spectrum.

Will you commit to working closely with me and with this Committee to expand commercial sector access to spectrum while, at the same time, protecting U.S. national security interests?

Ms. ROTH. Absolutely, Senator. National security needs to be paramount in any discussion over expanding access to spectrum. I am optimistic that by working together, we have the brightest minds in the country, we can find a path forward to advance our international technology leadership while protecting national security.

Chairman CRUZ. As you know, President Trump has called for the United States to have its own Iron Dome missile defense system. The Defense Department says they need every ounce of spectrum that they currently occupy and they cannot coexist with commercial users and their vast spectrum holdings, particularly if they need to build an Iron Dome system. What is your judgment? Can DoD build an Iron Dome and coexist with commercial spectrum users?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. First, at the outset, I thank God for the Iron Dome system. I have family in Israel, and it has saved their lives. So I would never do anything to jeopardize our ability to develop such a system here at home.

And I am optimistic that by working together, we have some of the brightest minds of this country working on spectrum, working

on feasibility studies, that we can find a way forward and have such a system at home without endangering national security.

Chairman CRUZ. As you know, NTIA administers the BEAD program, a \$42 billion broadband deployment program, authorized by Congress, under the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act. During the last administration, NTIA saddled BEAD with a variety of extraneous and burdensome requirements. As a result, after nearly 4 years, not a single American household has been connected to the internet.

In a departing screed to his colleagues, Biden's head of BEAD claimed that climate, labor, and other requirements, quote, "were inserted by the prior administration for messaging political purposes, and were never central to the mission of the program." I agree. They were never central to the mission. But it appears that the Biden mission was to avoid connecting even a single American household, to which I say mission accomplished. That is over now.

Will you commit to working closely with this Committee to remove these extraneous requirements and refocus the BEAD program on its actual purpose, which is connecting Americans to broadband in a cost-effective and timely manner?

Ms. ROTH. Yes, Senator. At the outset, I want the BEAD program to be a success. I want to connect every remaining American who currently lacks access to high-speed Internet as expeditiously, efficiently, and effectively as possible. I believe that we can deliver on this goal, and I am committed to it.

Chairman CRUZ. Now, some in the media, and some perhaps even in this room, want to convince the American people that fixing BEAD is part of some dark and sinister plot to benefit Elon Musk, by opening up the program to Starlink. And I would put the former head of BEAD in that camp, as well. Yet rightsizing BEAD may involve removing the thumb on the scale that the Biden administration placed in favor of fiber, and doing so is simply following the law as Congress wrote it.

BEAD was written to be tech neutral. America is a big country. While fiber might make sense in some areas, hybrid fiber, fixed wireless, and yes, even satellite-based Internet might be a smarter choice in other areas. That is not grift; it is good government. It is basic common sense.

Americans have waited long enough to get connected. It is time to do it, and we must use every tool in the kit to get broadband deployed as quickly and efficiently as possible. Will you commit to overseeing the BEAD program with an eye toward deploying broadband without favor to any particular technology, individual, or company?

Ms. ROTH. Absolutely, Senator. If I am confirmed, my mission will be to deliver broadband to the American people, not to serve any individual or company.

Chairman CRUZ. Thank you. Ranking Member Cantwell.

Senator CANTWELL. I am going to defer to my colleague, Senator Klobuchar.

Chairman CRUZ. OK. Senator Klobuchar.

**STATEMENT OF HON. AMY KLOBUCHAR,
U.S. SENATOR FROM MINNESOTA**

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you. Thank you very much. Welcome, Ms. Roth. I enjoyed our discussion in the car as I was driving around Minnesota last week, and I have especially enjoyed your very well-behaved kids. I note that your son asserting his independence with reading the book the entire time, with some memory of my own daughter at that age, except she would sit in the front row. I would be giving a speech, and she would read the book like this.

[Holds book up to her face.]

[Laughter.]

Senator KLOBUCHAR. So you have accomplished much that that is not happening.

I did enjoy working with you. I know you worked with our staff on not just the Low-Power Protection Act but also Brand USA with Senator Blunt, the STURDY Act, as well as all the work that we did on travel and tourism. So thank you for that.

I wanted to follow up on some of the questions on the broadband bill. I never really liked that BEAD name. I just call it the broadband bill. And I know that my state and many others have invested a lot of energy and capital in complying with the current rules, as they should do, and that we do not want to start from scratch. We do not want to delay this anymore. And we just are worried that anything that would make it more disruptive would be problematic. And if confirmed, how will you ensure that states, including Minnesota, can proceed with their broadband plans as expeditiously as possible?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. I realize there was one other vote we worked on together, Virginia Graeme Baker.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Oh, that was a big deal, on the swimming pools. It actually saved a lot of lives, yes. Yes, that was a big deal.

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. If I am honored to be confirmed, my primary objective would be to get broadband buildout to every last American as expeditiously as possible. I think that it has been more than 3 years since the IIJA was passed. I think there is frustration that we have not made significant progress in getting shovels in the ground. We do not have a single location connected yet. I want to solve that, and I want to get broadband to everyone in America and every single one of your constituents.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. OK. Very good. I understand the desire to strip out any needless requirements from the programs, but we must not, in the words of one of the people in the last administration dealing with this, "strip away from states the flexibility to get the best connections for their people."

If confirmed, would you implement a spending cap on the program, and if so, at what thresholds would you set it?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. I agree that we should be stripping out red tape and bureaucracy of the program to get the program on track and expedited. In terms of a spending cap, I would want to speak with NTIA's distinguished career staff to know what, if any, authority NTIA has. I would want to confer with NTIA distinguished career staff.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. OK. Universal Service Fund, we talked about this one the phone. I care a lot about this. Senator Thune and I have done some work on this together. Supreme Court just had their arguments on this. I will not ask you to predict what happens, but it appeared there was some concern about throwing out the fund.

As we discussed, we have to continue to ensure that we maximize Federal resources dedicated to expanding broadband access. I have been working across the aisle to strengthen funding mechanisms for USF, which allows for providers to connect the most hard-to-reach areas to high-speed internet. If confirmed, would you work with me and others on the Committee to expand the funding base for universal service?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. NTIA does not administer the USF. That is the domain of the FCC. Of course, there is a lot of overlap between broadband programs—

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Exactly.

Ms. ROTH—and I look forward to working the FCC on the goal of delivering broadband to all Americans and coordinating our efforts. And I would be happy to work with you on any efforts in that domain.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. OK. Last, I know the Chairman asked you about the spectrum funds. I chair the 911 Caucus, and am co-chair of it. And I have led legislation with Senator Cortez Masto to modernize America's 911 system, for obvious reasons. People are no longer just dialing in from landlines and they want to send photos, people want to get—firefighters get pictures of burning buildings on their phones so they can be safer in the specs and which part they enter in a building.

Do you believe Congress could leverage spectrum auctions to help modernize our 911 infrastructure?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. As a parent who has had to dial 911 before, and God forbid everything was OK and I only had to do it once, I know how important it is to have properly working 911 infrastructure. I know there are challenges in rural areas. I would be happy to work with you. Ultimately, Congress decides where spectrum auction proceeds go.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. OK. Thank you.

Chairman CRUZ. Thank you.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you, Senator Cantwell.

Chairman CRUZ. Senator Baldwin.

STATEMENT OF HON. TAMMY BALDWIN, U.S. SENATOR FROM WISCONSIN

Senator BALDWIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member. Ms. Roth, it was lovely to meet with you and talk about your vision for NTIA. I want to start by talking about the BEAD program also. It was established in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and NTIA and all 50 states have been working to implement BEAD to bridge the digital divide in the United States.

I was proud to help work to make sure that Wisconsin received an adequate sum. We received an award of slightly north of \$1.1 billion in BEAD funding to expand access to high-quality, high-speed internet. Just last month, Wisconsin ended the application

period for the first round of BEAD funding, and we are very excited to keep on moving ahead.

But at the beginning of this month, Commerce Secretary Lutnick announced a rigorous review, as he said, of the BEAD program, and I am concerned that this rigorous review could slow down our progress to deliver broadband access. So as Administrator, will you commit to ensuring that states are able to continue to move forward with approved BEAD plans without interference from this new Administration?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator, and thank you for meeting with me. If confirmed, my goal with the BEAD program would be to get broadband to every last unserved American as expeditiously as possible. I would hope that any review of the BEAD program would be done quickly, with an eye to expediting deployment. It is not just about expediting paperwork, expediting funding, but ultimately expediting deployment. And if there are ways that we can expedite that shovels-in-the-ground side of the program, I would want to find such ways.

Senator BALDWIN. Thank you. Our Chairman asked you a little bit about administering BEAD without favor to any particular technology or company, and I would like to inquire a little bit more deeply. Because the Secretary has talked about this rigorous review of BEAD, and there is some indication that there may be suggestions to give more favor to satellite technology in terms of connecting people with high-speed internet.

So how are you going to ensure that you are administering this, again without favor to a particular technology or company, particularly one that is overseen by somebody who has a very outsized role in this Administration, Elon Musk, especially if the Secretary is pushing you in that regard?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. If confirmed, as I said to Chairman Cruz, if I am fortunate to be confirmed, I will administer the program to the benefit of the American people, not any single individual or company. I believe that Congress wrote the BEAD program legislation in a tech-neutral manner, and tech-neutral goes both ways. Like we would not want to have only one technology, like fiber, as the only solution, nor would a separate technology be the only one that would be funded by the program.

Senator BALDWIN. When we met we talked about Buy America requirements that are in the BEAD and in the entire Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. And I got a chance to tell you a little bit about some of the jobs that have been created in Wisconsin because of the last administration's action being proactive to use our Buy America, Build America rules to bring jobs to the United States. Can you commit to enforcing the Buy America rules and requirements at NTIA?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. Advancing American manufacturing is very important, and if confirmed, I would want to find a way forward to deliver on the goal of advancing American manufacturing and an America First policy that this Administration has supported, with the goal of building out broadband as expeditiously as possible, and I would look forward to working with your office on this issue.

Senator BALDWIN. And when waivers exist or are sought, what approach would you take in reviewing waivers of the Buy America requirements?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. I will always abide by the law. As I have not been confirmed, I would like to have the chance to discuss that with the agency's esteemed experts. But I absolutely look forward to working with your office to ensure that that process abides by the goals of both Buy America as well as the BEAD program.

Senator BALDWIN. Mr. Chairman, I have run out of time.

Chairman CRUZ. Thank you. Senator Kim.

Senator KIM. Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman CRUZ. Oh, apparently I skipped Senator Moreno. I had looked down and it was empty, and you snuck in stealthily. I should warn you that the United Kingdom apparently has a problem with ninjas, and we may have a ninja on this Committee. So Senator Moreno, and then Senator Kim.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BERNIE MORENO,
U.S. SENATOR FROM OHIO**

Senator MORENO. You know, it is, just for the record, proof that Cubans and Colombians have a long history of animosity.

[Laughter.]

Senator MORENO. I do not blame them. They had a little [inaudible] confidence, so it is good. We have better coffee. They get very, very upset by that.

First of all, congratulations. And I thank the staff who is sitting around the table, that does enormous amounts of work, you put in all the hard hours and you wonder what am I doing. I think you are an inspiration to all of them. Despite your choice of what Senate office you worked for, congratulations to being in that position. It has got to be really cool for you to do this. And again, also thank you for being willing to serve your country the way you are doing it.

Just some quick questions. How is NTIA, in your mind, ensuring that its broadband investments are not duplicating funding from dozens of other Federal programs?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. This is an issue I have thought about and worked on, my career in telecom. I think GAO reported that there are 130 different broadband programs across the Federal Government. Coordination is really important. It would be one of my goals, if I am fortunate to be confirmed as administrator. I would also welcome the opportunity to work with your office on this issue.

Senator MORENO. OK. And at the last World Radio Conference, many criticized the U.S. delegation for disorganization. Many say this allowed China to pursue their aims at the conference unfettered. As NTIA provides expertise to the delegation, what will you do to support the World Radio Conference efforts?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. It a really important issue with the World Radio Communication Conference coming up in 2027. It is two years away, but we need to develop unified positions expeditiously. NTIA has a role to play in that. And the reason that is important is if we do not develop those unified positions, we do not

have a seat at the table, our adversaries will lead the discussion in favor of their equipment makers and manufacturers, potentially to the detriment of American equipment makers and manufacturers and those that serve America.

Senator MORENO. Makes sense. And with technologies like Starlink rapidly expanding, we are seeing that service throughout rural Ohio, dramatically less expensive to put up a \$200 receive than a \$2 million fiber cable up a mountain. Do you see that expanding service to remote areas at lower costs and faster development times? How is NTIA incorporating non-traditional, low-earth, satellite-based solutions into its long-term broadband strategy, like I said, especially in these hard-to-reach areas?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. Technology has come a very long way in delivering broadband. I think Congress wanted a technology-neutral approach to the BEAD program. It served our country well. It also recognizes that we are a diverse country, diverse geographically, and not every solution is going to work in every state or every area. And I look forward to, if confirmed, ensuring that states have the resources that they need to deliver broadband in a manner that serves their constituents.

Senator MORENO. Yes, it would be great to get you to Ohio, because we need a lot of parts of rural Ohio connected. We would love to get you out there and visit, once you are confirmed.

Last question would be, how does NTIA plan to increase engagement with private industry, including competitive carriers and non-traditional broadband providers to meet deployment goals more efficiently?

Ms. ROTH. Senator, I look forward to delivering on the goal of expediting broadband deployment through the BEAD program, getting every last American connected. And that includes an all-of-the-above solution. I look forward to working with your office to achieve that goal.

Senator MORENO. Perfect. Again, thank you for your willingness to serve. You are supremely qualified for the job, and I urge all of my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, to confirm you quickly so we can get you in there to get to work.

Ms. ROTH. Thank you.

Chairman CRUZ. Thank you, Senator Moreno. Now Senator Kim.

**STATEMENT OF HON. ANDY KIM,
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW JERSEY**

Senator KIM. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Roth, for coming before us. I actually just wanted to build off of something that the Chairman said in his opening remarks. He talked about making sure that America, not China, is setting the tech standards around the world, especially in the telecom space. And I guess I just want to start with a big-picture question. How would you characterize U.S. competitiveness right now in the telecom space, vis-à-vis China? I just want to get your understanding of where that stands right now?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. I think we are in a global technology race again China. We need to ensure that we do not fall behind, because if we do, that will lead to more situations to address like Rip and Replace, Salt Typhoon. We desperately need to ensure

that we win the global technology race, and part of that is ensuring that we have the best and fastest broadband networks in the world from which we can build innovation and remain the global technology leaders.

Senator KIM. One of the biggest challenges that we faced and saw in recent years was just China's aggressiveness when it came to 5G, in terms of the deployment of Huawei around the world. What do you think are the lessons that we should have been taking away from that, and how would you, in this job, try to make sure that we are pushing forward and thinking about how to strengthen American innovation at a time of such competitiveness?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. I think there are a lot of ways we can do that, ensuring that our spectrum policy is as efficient as possible so that we can have the best wireless innovation in the world. And it is also ensuring that all Americans have access to digital opportunities, and delivering on the requirements of the BEAD program is one way to do that.

Senator KIM. One of the things that we were able to move forward on is this \$1.5 billion Public Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Fund, that is at NTIA. I just wanted to ask, I am not sure if you have really thought this through in terms of what your vision would be in terms of that particular fund. It is something that I have been very interested in, in terms of how we can use this to potentially scale up, you know, trusted telecommunications supplies, and not just in the United States but abroad. I just wanted to see if you have given that some thought so far?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. Yes, supply chain security is very important in winning the global technology race. I am very familiar with that program and the goals of that program, combatting Huawei and ensuring that our networks are safe. And I look forward to abiding by the law. That program was signed into law, and if I am confirmed, I look forward to working on it with you and your office.

Senator KIM. Look, one thing to keep an eye out, if you are confirmed here, is there has been talk about what is the future of the CHIPS and Science Act, and this particular fund was one that came through that legislation. So I do have concerns in terms of about what the future is of that type of innovative spur that we are trying to unleash. So that is something I just wanted to flag for you. And just in general, just thinking about how we can increase our competitiveness, our innovation, but also better protecting ourselves to try to prevent foreign adversaries from being able to exploit our U.S. telecommunications networks as well as the supply chains, as you mentioned. So that is something I am hopeful we are able to work together on.

The last thing I just wanted to flag, switching gears. I am the father of a 7-year-old and a 9-year-old. I see your beautiful family here, as well. The Chairman mentioned in his opening remarks that you have been instrumental in thinking about protecting privacy for kids, with the work on this Committee. I guess I wanted to just ask for your thoughts here. Can you speak to how you will try to advance that sense of privacy for our children with the work you do as Assistant Secretary?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. I agree. Privacy is incredibly important. NTIA does not have a regulatory role on privacy. NTIA is an advisor to the President on—

Senator KIM. What do you think the President should focus in on when it comes to privacy for kids?

Ms. ROTH. Senator, I am not at the agency yet and I would like to have a chance to figure out what the agency is working on, speaking to the distinguished career staff. But it is certainly an issue that I would want to work on, and I would look forward to working with your office.

Senator KIM. Yes, look, as I said, if confirmed, I hope this is something that we can really lift up. I think a lot of parents are just beside themselves right now, and just would like to see some strong action. And I think having a young mom taking the charge on this, I think that would be a really strong signal to this country. Thanks a lot. And with that I yield back.

Chairman CRUZ. Thank you. Senator Blunt Rochester.

**STATEMENT OF HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER,
U.S. SENATOR FROM DELAWARE**

Senator BLUNT ROCHESTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Ranking Member Cantwell. Welcome, Ms. Roth, to you and your family, and congratulations on your upcoming new family member. I thought I was going to be the last one to speak so that we did not have any breaking news here today, but more are coming in.

I just wanted to kind of pick up where a lot of my colleagues left off on the BEAD program and just how you can tell from the fact that across the aisle everyone is very much interested in making sure that our country is connected. In Delaware, we set a goal to become the first state in the Nation to be fully connected to high-speed Internet with the funding from the BEAD program, and we will be able to accomplish that goal with this program. And I hope I can count on you.

I have heard you say, and commit it to others, as well, that you will expeditiously turn this goal into a reality and commit to the funding being received as quickly as possible, particularly because Delaware, Louisiana, and Nevada are three states that actually have gone through all the steps. We are right there, completed the whole process, and NTIA actually approved our plan to connect many of the underserved households and businesses in our state. And that was approved at the beginning of this year.

So I just wanted to again encourage you, as one of your first opportunities to make sure particularly those plans that have been approved, that you will take a look at them. Can I get that commitment?

Ms. ROTH. Absolutely. One of my priorities, if confirmed as NTIA Administrator, would be to get broadband to every single American as expeditiously as possible.

Senator BLUNT ROCHESTER. Thank you. And many of the states, we have submitted these plans but we are different. We are diverse. We crafted those plans based on experts in our states and local municipalities. And we hope that you will be considering the uniqueness of those. Some of the characteristics might just be our

terrain, whether it is skyscrapers or mountains, whether it is forests or farms, we are different.

So will you commit to allowing states with approved plans to choose the broadband delivery technology that works best for their individual situations?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. I certainly recognize that we have a diverse country with diverse geography, and a one-size-fits-all solution does not necessarily make sense. That is why we need an all-of-the-above solution to delivering broadband, and I look forward to working with your office on that.

Senator BLUNT ROCHESTER. Thank you so much. I want to turn to the Digital Equity Act, which as you know was part of the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act. More and more we are seeing technology be prevalent in our lives. I mean, literally, whether it is the doctor, whether it is the school classroom, it is really important that we have digital literacy and that we bridge the digital divide.

Our HBCU, Delaware State University, was one of the organizations that received funding for high-speed Internet access for training and workforce development related to digital literacy. But we also have our Department of Labor that would provide IT training, as well. They are still waiting on their funding.

Will you commit to supporting this program, as enacted?

Ms. ROTH. Senator, in the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act, Congress committed to ensuring that broadband Internet is affordable for all Americans, and that Americans have the resources and skills they need to connect. I will abide by the law.

Senator BLUNT ROCHESTER. Great. Thank you. A definition that was in that Act, of the covered populations, for some has included controversy. But I just want to clarify that in the law it is low-income, seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, and people in rural America. And I think that is really important, because all of us are affected by this. Our ability to shop, our ability to even read and go to school, as I said, is really important. So I am glad that you are committed to this.

And then, last, I would love to shift to cybersecurity. In the 9 seconds I have I will ask a question for the record. But this, too, is also a priority for us, and I am looking to, should you be confirmed, to work with you on this issue, as well, particularly around the workforce, because I think that is a huge issue for us.

So thank you, and I yield back.

Chairman CRUZ. Thank you. Senator Markey.

**STATEMENT OF HON. EDWARD MARKEY,
U.S. SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS**

Senator MARKEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is good to see you again, Ms. Roth.

Along with the \$42.5 billion that Congress provided for the broadband program known as BEAD, we also provided nearly \$3 billion to help ensure all Americans have the skills and the knowledge to participate in the online world. Those funds are critical to ensure that all Americans can benefit from the digital revolution. In Massachusetts, for example, residents express difficulties find-

ing jobs online and obtaining other important services. This funding will help close those gaps.

Ms. Roth, if confirmed, will you commit to fulfilling NTIA's legal obligation to provide the money authorized and appropriated by Congress for this program?

Ms. ROTH. Senator, I will always abide by the law, and also thank you so much for meeting with me in your office. It was such an honor to meet with someone who has had such an influence on my career with so many pieces of legislation that you authored in the telecom sector. Thank you.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you, and I am glad I got to help to provide employment for you and so many others at the Federal Communications Commission over the years.

[Laughter.]

Senator MARKEY. And thank you for that. I am glad to hear that. Many of my colleagues have raised the Trump administration's ongoing review of the BEAD program and the impact of any potential changes of the program. Massachusetts has been allocated \$147 million in BEAD funding, and began accepting applications from providers in January. Just yesterday, Arkansas announced results from their second round of their application process. Other states are in a similar position.

Given the Commerce Department's review, should states just stop accepting applications and indefinitely pause their program, and just save the money?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. As I have not been confirmed yet I have not had a chance to confer with NTIA's career staff, and I have not been involved in the review process. I would hope that any review conducted by NTIA is expeditious with the goal of expediting buildout.

Senator MARKEY. Yes, well, will you commit to a quick timeline for when the review will be complete?

Ms. ROTH. As I have not been confirmed, I am not in a position to commit to a specific timeline, but I will commit that my goal would be a very expeditious timeline.

Senator MARKEY. That is great, because I am very worried that changes to the program will cause serious delays in deploying broadband right as states are ready to get shovels in the ground.

Now I would like to talk about a specific change that the Trump administration appears to be pushing for BEAD, turning the program into a subsidy for Elon Musk's Starlink. Under the guise of making the program, quote, "technology neutral," the Trump administration may eliminate the program's preference for fiber and make satellite providers like Starlink eligible for BEAD funding, in all circumstances.

Ms. Roth, do you support that change?

Ms. ROTH. Senator, as I said before, I would administer the law consistent with the statute, and to the benefit of the American people, not for any specific individual or company. I do believe that Congress wrote the law in a technology-neutral manner, and that means an all-of-the-above solution that recognizes different realities across different parts of the country.

Senator MARKEY. OK. Well, let's be clear. Let's be clear. The BEAD program never excluded satellite broadband, but it did limit

it. It did limit it to areas where fiber was excessively expensive. That is in the law. And that is because while satellite broadband may be cheaper to deploy in some locations in the short term, it costs far more to service and maintain in the long run.

So Ms. Roth, do you agree that fiber is a cheaper technology in the long run?

Ms. ROTH. Senator, I would want to confer with NTIA's career staff before assessing a specific product or technology. And I look forward to working with you to ensure that Massachusetts gets what it needs.

Senator MARKEY. It is not just Massachusetts. It is the whole country.

Ms. ROTH. Absolutely.

Senator MARKEY. Because this satellite versus fiber question is very central, and according to a *Bloomberg* article yesterday, for example, one state official found that fiber would save households \$15,600 over a 30-year period. And I ask that article be included in the record, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman CRUZ. Without objection.

[The information referred to follows:]

Musk's Broadband Satellites Have Long-Term Costs, States Say

By Kelcee Griffiths | March 25, 2025 2:25PM ET

The Trump administration is making changes to a \$42 billion broadband subsidy program that will benefit satellite internet providers like Elon Musk's Starlink, but some state and federal officials worry the technology isn't robust enough to connect Americans on a mass scale and at affordable rates.

The Biden administration's vision for the Broadband Equity and Access Deployment Program (BEAD), designed to deliver fast, reliable home internet service to every US household, leaned heavily on fiber-optic lines, a technology that's expensive to install but can last for decades. The shift toward satellites is a result of extensive lobbying by Musk and has gained Republican support, including from Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Ted Cruz.

State and former federal officials, several of whom spoke to Bloomberg on the condition of anonymity, described pitfalls with Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick's new approach, which gives more opportunities for satellite terminals that are initially inexpensive, but can cost more over time. One state official shared internal data that showed satellite service costs consumers 53% more over the course of 30 years. Satellite service would also cost more than twice as much to maintain over that time frame, according to the data.

"There does not seem to be a clear understanding of the difference in these technologies, nor in the long-term impacts of making one choice versus another," said Evan Feinman, the former director of the broadband program under Biden, who left the Commerce Department this month.

Lutnick said recently that he was reviewing the BEAD program, which was approved by Congress in 2021, due to the previous administration's "favoritism towards certain technologies." Lutnick's department, which also cited a lack of progress in rolling out the service, is revamping the initiative to give it a more "tech neutral approach" that will deliver internet access "at the lowest cost to taxpayers," according to a statement from his office.

□
 Photographer: Yuri Gripas/Abaca/Bloomberg
 Howard Lutnick, US commerce secretary, wants to change the Broadband Equity and Access Deployment Program

The change is raising red flags among some state broadband leaders who distribute the federal subsidies, and former officials at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the Commerce branch leading the effort.

Under the original plan, satellite providers were generally only allowed to compete to provide access if the cost of installing fiber exceeded a certain cost per location, a threshold states were allowed to determine themselves. Louisiana, for example, is prepared to spend as much as \$100,000 on a single fiber connection.

Lutnick is mulling whether to remove that discretion and set a national benchmark, Feinman said, among other options for reforming the program. Any formula that emphasizes the lowest initial cost to the government will rely heavily on satellites, state and federal officials said.

Read more: Musk's Starlink Pushed by GOP for \$42 Billion Broadband Buildout

"The BEAD program is being revamped to take a technology-neutral approach – a needed fix from the prior administration's one-size-fits-all approach," said a spokesperson for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which is in charge of the program. "Instead of putting a thumb on the scale for a particular technology, the BEAD program will be rigorously driven by outcomes, so states can provide internet access for the lowest cost."

Fiber, which involves stringing cable to a user's home, costs at least \$1,500 per location to install, according to an analysis shared by one state broadband official who asked not to be identified. However, costs can vary widely depending on where a home is located and how much existing infrastructure surrounds it, among other factors. Texas estimates it can build fiber to a home for roughly \$10,000.

By contrast, Starlink, which is part of Musk's Space Exploration Technologies Inc., offers a standard residential kit for around \$600, though those costs too can fluctuate.

But Starlink's satellites need replacing every five years, making their total cost to consumers much higher in the long run, according to the state analysis. Fiber's overall cost to serve a quarter-million homes is roughly \$4 billion less than satellite service over 30 years, according to the state analysis, and would save an individual household \$15,600 over the same period.

A shift toward satellite generally translates into profit for Starlink, which is one of two low-earth orbit satellite providers that's operational in the US right now, with 7,000 satellites. The other, Eutelsat Communications SA's OneWeb, has 630 satellites in orbit. Amazon.com Inc.'s Project Kuiper plans to launch its first satellites later this year and emerge as another competitor, although the company has faced recent setbacks to its rollout. The Wall Street Journal reported that Starlink is in line to receive \$4.1 billion under the current Biden-era BEAD rules, but that a change to favor more satellite use could steer \$10 billion to \$20 billion to the company.

As a final missive in his old role, Feinman sent an email to colleagues warning that the Commerce Department is on a collision course to “stranding all or part of rural America with worse internet so that we can make the world’s richest man even richer.”

SpaceX, Amazon and OneWeb didn’t respond to a request for comment.

Any new federal edict that caps state spending on fiber will require states to renegotiate contracts and potentially delay the program by another year to 18 months, a state official said. States like West Virginia and Missouri, which recently finished selecting infrastructure partners, would be sent back to the drawing board even though the former plans to connect the entire state with fiber, and the latter will reach the vast majority of the state with the technology while remaining within their budgets.

There are other reasons the original BEAD program favored fiber networks. Fiber delivers high speeds at lower latency levels than satellites, which can suffer from network congestion and environmental interference, according to the state data.

Fiber is capable of achieving one gigabit upload and download speeds, enough to stream high-definition videos on multiple devices, transmit large files and run nearly a dozen smart home devices at once without any buffering. Starlink’s standard home service offers 100 megabits per second download and 20 mbps upload speeds — the Federal Communications Commission’s baseline for modern internet speeds — which is typically enough to support some high-quality streaming across several devices and fast file downloads.

State leaders also like fiber projects for their local economic impact. Whereas satellite infrastructure concentrates economic growth in manufacturing centers, fiber builds rely on workers inside a community to install and maintain the networks.

Satellite broadband proponents note that the industry is rapidly adding capacity as more satellites come online, and government subsidies typically help fiber providers keep their consumer prices low — something satellite internet doesn’t yet benefit from.

“There are multiple satellite companies that are capable of providing broadband today,” said Tom Stroup, president of the Satellite Industry Association. “We’re hopeful that the examinations that are underway will make multiple satellite companies eligible for funding.”

□
 Photographer: Cate Dingley/Bloomberg
 A Starlink satellite on the roof of a home in Galisteo, New Mexico.

Starlink applied several years ago for nearly \$900 million in subsidies from the FCC's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, but was denied because the agency found Musk's company hadn't shown it could fulfill the requirements to deploy a network of the scale required.

The Starlink system has expanded since then and Musk has aggressive plans to build it out even further. But the saga left a lingering question of whether the company is being realistic about its capabilities, according to another state official who asked not to be identified.

Federal and state officials have been quick to say they don't believe Starlink is inherently a bad company or that low-earth orbit satellite internet isn't good technology. They just don't see it as the best solution for connecting large swaths of the country.

Satellite service was always expected to "be a big part of the program and a necessary part of the program," said Alan Davidson, the former NTIA head who oversaw the Biden administration's rollout of the program. "We just wanted to give states the flexibility to choose how much."

Amazon's Project Kuiper is already included in Nevada's broadband infrastructure plan and many other states plan to cover a small percentage of their hard-to-reach areas with satellite service.

The nonprofit Information Technology and Innovation Foundation said in paper published in January that states could provide cheaper service in many locations with Starlink, and it suggested fiber spending shouldn't exceed \$1,200 per location — twice the cost of a Starlink terminal at the time.

Ellis Scherer, one of the paper's authors, said that the group is generally hopeful that other technologies will get a fair shot at competing for funding with the addition of reasonable financial guardrails. He suggested that \$75,000 or more is too much to spend on a single fiber location.

"Our biggest concern is that there's not egregious spending on fiber just for fiber's sake," he said in an interview.

Arielle Roth, who is poised to shape the future of the BEAD program as the next nominated NTIA head, is scheduled to appear for a confirmation hearing on March 27 where her policies will take center stage. Roth has publicly criticized the program and said it should be technology neutral.



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at SENATOR EDWARD MARKEY

In the meantime, states are left in a holding pattern, with several unable to begin building approved projects until regulators in Washington sign off on their final budgets. Others are left wondering whether they should continue selecting infrastructure partners amid the uncertainty.

There's still time to tweak the program without impeding states' progress or forcing them to prioritize satellite in areas where it doesn't make sense, Feinman said.

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Molly Schuetz

Senator MARKEY. So, Mr. Roth, I strongly urge you to oppose this giveaway to Elon Musk and ensure that the BEAD program delivers for all Americans, and that we not adopt a more costly approach, because that surely will drain the funding that could have been used more efficiently.

So I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

Chairman CRUZ. I thank the Senator from Massachusetts, and I would note that in 4 years the Biden administration managed to connect zero households with the \$42 billion that Congress gave them. And one of the reasons was the Biden administration, I think, engaged in petulant and partisan politics by blacklisting Elon Musk and Starlink, which is technology that could have connected particularly households in distant rural places. And I think it was purely partisan.

And I would note we saw this underscored just last week, when two American astronauts finally came back from the International Space Station, when SpaceX flew them back, and Elon offered, months ago, to fly them back. And because the Biden administration suffered from Elon Derangement Syndrome, they stranded our astronauts in space for many months, rather than accept the only ride back that could bring them from the Station.

Senator MARKEY. If the Senator would yield?

Chairman CRUZ. Sure.

Senator MARKEY. I thank you. So, you know, to the extent to which the Biden administration did authorize, last July, to contract with SpaceX in order to complete that mission, I think we should note that it began in the Biden administration.

And to the extent to which if we do move forward now with deployment of the BEAD program, all I am asking, is if that be the case, that we just do it in the most efficient way. That is something that Elon would want.

Chairman CRUZ. On that we are agreed.

Senator MARKEY. And if it is clear that it is fiber and not Starlink, that that be the approach which is taken by the Administration. Because if we do it that way, we will save more money for the consumers over time.

Let's look forward. Let's look to the future and our opportunities——

Chairman CRUZ. You know, I am a pushover when you do your JFK impression.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman CRUZ. Senator Hickenlooper.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN HICKENLOOPER, U.S. SENATOR FROM COLORADO

Senator HICKENLOOPER. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Ms. Roth. I appreciate the time you spent carved out for us in the office.

Let's start with the Spectrum Relocation Fund. The SRF provides funding to the Federal Government to research the feasibility of modifying and, if necessary, upgrading Federal systems that use spectrum. But it is limited to only reimbursing a Federal agency where necessary costs to update a system of, quote/unquote, "comparable capability." Now many Federal agencies have stated that

SRF limits their ability to upgrade their systems that use spectrum and continue fulfilling their missions.

So, Ms. Roth, do you believe that SRF could be reformed to better incentivize agencies to share or reallocate spectrum? Why or why not?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator, and thank you for meeting with me in your office. I think we should be trying to find efficiencies, where possible, consistent with national security. And I am aware of debates over SRF and how to make it more effective. It would be an honor to work with your office on this issue.

Senator HICKENLOOPER. Great. Well, I think that is something we are eager to do, and I appreciate your openness to that.

It is my chance to talk about BEAD, as we all do, and talked about it a little bit in the office. Obviously, many projects, but broadband, especially, saw significant investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. And I think we believe that improvements can be made that maintain the community input but improve the permitting process, again, like we have heard from various of us, moving things along.

What is your view on how NTIA can help states address permitting issues that may come up as BEAD projects begin construction? As you are aware, Colorado is kind of a model child in that sense that we have satellite, we have fiber, and then we have normal cell towers.

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. As I said, expediting the program, and specifically expediting buildout, would be my priority, if confirmed. And permitting is certainly one thing that I would want to look at as a potential solution to expediting the buildout side. It can also make the deployment of broadband less costly, and that is what we want is to get the best bang for the taxpayer's buck so that our dollars are stretched as far as possible, so that we can deliver broadband to all Americans in an expeditious and efficient manner.

Senator HICKENLOOPER. I think that is exactly the right approach, and there is certainly a backlog. It is a little bit like watching the mongoose going through the python. It is kind of blocked up for a while, but now hopefully it will start going very, very quickly, and get that money spent wisely.

Again, back to spectrum and a little bit about interagency coordination. Many would argue that there is always room for improvement when Federal agencies are trying to work together. It is not a natural condition of the species. In recent years, the FCC and the NTIA updated a memorandum of understanding that goes all the way—it was first signed in 2003—it goes all the way back relative to planning and coordination of spectrum.

What are your plans, or how do you see us doing the best job to maintain close communications with the FCC to ensure that these spectrum decisions are evidence-based and will hold up over the long term?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. NTIA has historically maintained a close relationship with the FCC. That is something I would certainly want to continue, if I am fortunate to be confirmed as NTIA administrator. And part of that would be certainly reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding. If there are improvements to be

made in NTIA and FCC's coordination, it is something I would be honored to work on.

Senator HICKENLOOPER. Great. And then one last question, which you will not be able to answer completely. But I think relative to your position, assuming that you are confirmed to the NTIA, there is a rising tide of issues around AI—AI development, the data center growth, how that affects energy demand. How would you position NTIA to help facilitate the resolution of those challenges?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. AI is very important and America's leadership in AI is very important to ensure that we remain the global leader in AI and do not cede that leadership to our adversaries. I think one way to advance that is through expanding spectrum access and finding efficiencies, because AI is going to place increased demand on our networks, so any efficiencies that we can find consistent with national security will, in the long run, protect our country and our global technology leadership.

Senator HICKENLOOPER. Great. Thank you so much, and I appreciate how concise your answers are. If you can run the agency that concisely, there will be good things ahead.

Thank you. I yield back to the Chair.

Chairman CRUZ. Thank you. Senator Peters.

**STATEMENT OF HON. GARY PETERS,
U.S. SENATOR FROM MICHIGAN**

Senator PETERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Roth, good to see you and congratulations on your nomination to serve as the Assistant Secretary. And it is nice to see that your family is here, as well. It is not easy to corral all of that, but you are able to do it, so congratulations.

I believe that one of our biggest achievements over the past few years was indeed the passage of Broadband Equity Access and Deployment program, the BEAD Act, which has been coming up quite a bit during this hearing. Coming from Michigan, this is certainly a critical program. It has been a massive undertaking. Michigan has embraced it and believe that it will connect everyone with the fastest, most reliable Internet possible.

Right now, Michigan is nearing the end of its procurement process to identify providers who will bring broadband to over 368,000 underserved locations across my state. And I believe we cannot move backward with the program. To that end, I have got a couple of questions for you, and talk about concise, you can answer yes or no. So you can be very concise with it.

First question is, if confirmed, will you oppose changes to the BEAD program that would require states to restart subgrantee processes currently underway, something that I would believe would lead to over a year of delays. So would you oppose those? Yes or no?

Ms. ROTH. Senator, as I have not been confirmed I am not in a position to make a specific commitment. I will commit to you that I would work to expedite the program as much as possible so that Michiganders gain access to broadband as quickly as possible.

Senator PETERS. OK. Well, we would want to work with you, if confirmed, to make sure that that indeed happens.

You have previously discussed BEAD program's tech neutrality. That neutrality, as you know, is already built into the program. Starlink and other satellite Internet companies will be eligible to be part of the Michigan procurement process. However—and this is a big however—up until now states have been able to exercise the judgment as to when they can get underserved communities the most reliable, the fastest, the most cost-effective Internet possible, which is often fiber optics. It depends on the area. It depends on how rural you are. A lot of factors. But the states are making those decisions, based on the unique characteristics there.

So my question for you—again, a yes or no would work—if confirmed, will you continue to allow states to make a call about which technology they believe will best serve the communities in their individual states?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. I believe that one of the reasons that the BEAD program has been so slow to roll out is because of excessive bureaucracy imposed by the Federal Government. I would hope that we could remove some of that red tape to get the program in a position to deploy as quickly as possible.

Senator PETERS. So can I take from that answer you say get rid of the red tape, let states make that decision, the Federal Government should not insert themselves in that?

Ms. ROTH. If confirmed, I would certainly want to work with all the state broadband offices to better understand their needs and to ensure that the program is serving the interests of each state, and not subjecting them to excessive red tape.

Senator PETERS. So red tape meaning Federal Government dictating to a state. You would not want to see that. That does not sound like what I am hearing from you. A state should be able to decide their own. Correct?

Ms. ROTH. Uh—

Senator PETERS. You can be real concise, yes or no?

Ms. ROTH. I will abide by the law, Senator, to remove excessive red tape.

Senator PETERS. OK. As you know, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law allows states to utilize BEAD funds for certain non-deployment purposes. I believe it is essential that we allow states, again, to maintain this flexibility—I am all about states having flexibility—specifically when it comes to workforce and digital skills training, but also to allow states to ensure that communities that newly have access to broadband actually sign up to connect.

So my question is, if confirmed, will you work to ensure states have the broadest possible flexibility in the use of these funds—I think I am hearing that when you say you want to get rid of red tape. So yes or no, will you work to ensure states have the broadest possible flexibility in how they use their funds?

Ms. ROTH. Senator, I certainly agree with the goal of ensuring that states have what they need in order to get broadband to their constituents as quickly as possible. I will abide by the law.

Senator PETERS. Very good. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman CRUZ. Thank you. Senator Cantwell.

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Roth, in your testimony you basically said a couple of times you want to make sure everybody gets covered. It is not the direct responsibility of

NTIA, but do you think we should have allowed the ACP program to end?

Ms. ROTH. Senator, I have been nominated to NTIA, which did not administer the ACP. That was the FCC's role. I agree with the goal of ensuring that broadband is affordable to all Americans.

Senator CANTWELL. So if you had your preferences you would prefer that a program like that, even if it was not ACP, you would prefer a program like that existed?

Ms. ROTH. Senator, I have not been confirmed. I do think the Administration has taken a position on this. I think broadband should be affordable for all Americans. It is something that requires an all-of-the-above solution. The particular way you go about it is something that I would be happy to work with you on.

Senator CANTWELL. Yes. Well, I do think it has been as affordable for a segment of the population that is below, let's say, \$50,000 to \$40,000 of income. The studies and analysis show they cannot afford it. So I think that is where the gap is, and my personal opinion is that is what we should have focused on as we were looking at BEAD.

I do not agree with the critique of the Chairman about the BEAD program on the length of time and the deployment, because basically instead of letting the FCC, who I also agree was not doing a good enough job answering this question, we basically said, OK, we are going to take it out of the hands of the FCC, and now we are going to give it to states, and now they have to set this up, and then they can get the money, and then they can start the deployment. And that took longer.

So I personally thought we should have drilled down on this little problem, which is the affordability issue for, you could call them late adopters. I call them people who cannot afford broadband. And we should have focused more on that as a Congress. But our colleagues, who were also frustrated—Maine, Alaska, various states—you know, very frustrated, basically said oh no, we are just going to get our states involved.

Well, when states get involved it becomes complex, and I also do not agree about the Starlink example of not being something to be concerned about, because we had, in our state—look, Starlink deployments are very good for particular areas, and we could see a lot more competition in the future, so we are not even ruling that out.

But we had decisions made where Tribal areas basically went ahead and pushed with the state to get a satellite solution, only to find that they had to have a backcall out, that nobody had calculated when they made that decision to make that commitment to Starlink.

So I do think we have to have really smart and technical people involved in this. I really do think that we have to figure out how we are going to get broadband connectivity to lower-income Americans, and I hope that you will think about this for the record, about how you can commit to that. Because even though you are not the core entity, I do think this Committee has said, over time, they are kind of tired with us not having the solutions and they want NTIA to play a larger role. We are not giving you that responsibility, but

we are saying they do hope that NTIA plays a larger role on broadband, in general. And I think that is because they are frustrated.

So that gets me to the next question about technical expertise. You are a policy person, right? I do not know everything about your background, but you are mostly a policy realm, right?

Ms. ROTH. I think that is pretty accurate.

Senator CANTWELL. Yes, OK. So what do you think that you will do at NTIA to get a more technical team? The last person in your job was a very technical person. I am not saying one thing or another about that. I am just saying what are you going to do to build the technical expertise under you or with you at NTIA?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you, Senator. I have had the honor of working with so many technical experts at NTIA over the years, particularly in the Office of Spectrum Management, at the ITS. I look forward to working with NTIA's distinguished career staff and working with them. It is something that, at the FCC, as well, there were attorneys and then there were technical experts, and we all have to work together to find the right solution.

Senator CANTWELL. Well, we got into arguments with agencies. You know, it was NOAA's scientists versus somebody else's scientists. What is the type of expertise you think we have to get at NTIA so that we are forward leaning and building that kind of expertise that we can use to get coordination within the Federal Government?

Ms. ROTH. Thank you. No, it is a good question. I think we need a mix of different expertise to address the tremendous challenges that we face on spectrum, on getting broadband connected. I look forward to working with your office on ensuring that we achieve these goals.

Senator CANTWELL. But you agree, if NTIA is going to play this role, which I think our Committee thinks that it should, and historically we have been moving toward this, that NTIA has to have the technical horsepower to help succeed in the policy development?

Ms. ROTH. Yes. One thing I look forward to is getting to know NTIA's staff better. I have gotten to know some of them over the years, and I would welcome the opportunity to better understand NTIA's staffing needs.

Senator CANTWELL. Well, one of the reasons I bring this up is the Chairman, earlier this morning at a hearing on the fatal crash at DCA, General Braman, confirmed that despite FAA warnings the Secret Service and Navy have been actively jamming spectrum used by aircraft collision avoidance systems at DCA. So if confirmed, you will play a vital role in that coordination process.

So do you agree that national security and public safety risks, that we have to figure out how to work on these issues, and that NTIA has to help resolve these issues?

Ms. ROTH. Absolutely. NTIA has to work with other Federal agencies to resolve technical disagreements, to ensure that national security and public safety are protected. It is an essential part of the interagency process.

Senator CANTWELL. So in that regard, do you agree that NTIA—well, first of all, the report that NTIA did that was about dynamic spectrum sharing, did you review that? I am assuming you did. I

can't remember if you were part of our secure brief last year on this.

Ms. ROTH. I am not immediately familiar with which particular report you are referring to. Of course, NTIA has done a lot of research on spectrum innovation that I am familiar with.

Senator CANTWELL. So do you agree that NTIA, DoD, and other agencies must complete ongoing studies of the low gigahertz, you know, 3 GHz and 7 and 8 GHz band, before making a decision to reallocate that spectrum?

Ms. ROTH. If confirmed, I look forward to figuring out what the status of those studies are and learning more. I know NTIA has some very accomplished technical experts that are working on studies, and I look forward to working with them.

Senator CANTWELL. So do you think that before we do an allocation that we should have that information?

Ms. ROTH. I believe that any allocation of spectrum needs to take feasibility studies into account and ensure that our national security is protected as well as Federal missions.

Senator CANTWELL. Well, I am bringing this up because I think it was your witness, Matt Pearl, Director of Emergency Technology at CSIS, that was at a recent hearing, and he basically said yes, before we move forward obviously the Chairman does have a proposal to move forward without doing that study and analysis. So I am just trying to understand whether you think that is vital to do. Because in reality, your job is going to be the person who is going to try to help solve all this, right. So I am just trying to get a sense of whether you are going to move from one position here to this larger coordination position, and whether you are going to make sure that the analysis, so important to DoD, gets done?

Ms. ROTH. Senator, I believe that national security needs to be paramount in any effort to reallocate spectrum, and spectrum studies and interagency coordination are a huge part of that.

Senator CANTWELL. OK. So I am going to ask you, for the record, to give you a little more time to just say yes or no, whether that has to be completed. I will write it up for you, and on the 3 GHz and 7 and 8, whether that has to be completed before Congress goes ahead and does the allocation. There are a couple of different ways this could work. You certainly could write into the reconciliation bill that all that would have to be done. We are saying it has to be done. And obviously that is what we accomplished in the last administration is getting DoD and NTIA to agree. So we would like to see the very technical analysis that has to happen be done, given the complaint.

So just for the record, my colleagues have asked a lot about BEAD funding, and that is great. That means I do not have to ask as much. The BEAD funding allocations, under law, include \$3.3 billion to Texas, \$405 million to Nebraska, \$451 to Kansas, \$1.2 billion to West Virginia, \$1 billion to Alaska. These are commitments that have been already committed, and households. So will you commit to preserving these allocations that NTIA made to each state in 2023, including I think about \$1 billion to my home state of Washington?

Ms. ROTH. Senator, I will abide by the law.

Senator CANTWELL. Is your interpretation of that law that, yes, you will go ahead and make those allocations?

Ms. ROTH. I cannot commit to any specific outcomes as I have not been confirmed. But I will certainly——

Senator CANTWELL. You are saying you do not know what the Administration is going to do. Is that what you are saying?

Ms. ROTH. I have not been confirmed yet. I have not had an opportunity to look into this issue yet. But I will absolutely——

Senator CANTWELL. Well, you know the policy. You do know the policy, right? You know that was our intent, and the money has now been allocated. So it is whether you think that those commitments made in 2023 should be upheld?

Ms. ROTH. I believe that NTIA—if confirmed, I look forward to reviewing those allocations and ensuring that the program is compliant with the law. I will always abide by the law, Senator, and I look forward to working with you on the BEAD program.

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you. I would have like to have a stronger commitment, but we will get back to you on the 3 GHz in a written answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman CRUZ. Thank you, Senator Cantwell. I will note that Senator Cantwell mentioned my pipeline legislation, that it did not require a feasibility study. Under the terms of the legislation it actually directs the interagency to identify 600 MHz that can be made available to the private sector, and to engage in that interagency discussion, and that includes necessarily a technical and feasibility study. What it does not do is give DoD the ability to slow-walk studies into eternity and block spectrum from being made available for job creation and to ensure that America beats China in 5G and 6G.

I will also note earlier that Senator Markey, somewhat oddly, claimed that the Biden administration's partisan and political blacklisting of Starlink because they dislike Elon Musk, which had the consequence of denying many Americans broadband connectivity, he claimed it was somehow consistent with the statute. And I just want to read into the record the language of the statute, 47 USC 1705(a)(4) which reads, quote, "The term 'covered broadband project' means a competitively and technologically neutral project for the deployment of fixed broadband service that provides qualifying broadband service in an eligible service area."

So that was written directly into the statute, that it was meant to be technologically neutral. And if Elon Musk had decided to be a ginormous Democrat donor, I have no doubt that the Biden administration would have pulled out a pinata and celebrated Starlink providing broadband. But because he was on the other side politically, the American people paid the price and did not get connected to the internet.

Senator CANTWELL. Mr. Chairman, if I could——

Chairman CRUZ. Sure.

Senator CANTWELL.—just on this issue. I think your example this morning at an earlier Committee hearing, we do have interference, and it does affect the safety of aviation, and could affect the safety of other things. And so I just hope that we will get to this point where we are working to make America competitive by having the dynamic spectrum sharing and the best expertise as a nation, but

trying to put one cart in front of the other without answering those technical questions is a big concern, I think, for a lot of people here.

Listen, Starlink, as I mentioned, is providing service in my state and doing so in great capacity. But I do think that states, you know, I am not as big a personal fan of what happened because we moved the technical expertise from a very technical group of people, albeit they were not moving fast enough, the FCC, to another group of people at states, and then they also did not necessarily answer some of these questions.

So I do think that communities need to know what they are getting, and they need to know that the solution, particularly on fiber that they may need to have their data also transferred out of the community, is an important point.

So I think it is safe to say we are going to have a lot of conversations about spectrum, about broadband, and continuing this. But I really hope that these various sectors would work together. I really do believe in the CHIPS and Science Act. I do believe that one of the competitive things for our Nation is to get deployment, but also get national security.

So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman CRUZ. And it is certainly right that we have to do these technically correct. I will note that we had interference at DCA because the Navy screwed up and did not listen to the FAA, and that is not how this is supposed to operate.

Ms. Roth, my final question is required of all nominees. If confirmed, do you pledge to work collaboratively with this Committee to provide thorough and timely responses to this Committee's requests and to appear before the Committee, when requested?

Ms. ROTH. Yes, Senator.

Chairman CRUZ. Thank you. I have 15 letters of support from various organizations for Ms. Roth's nomination to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information that I ask unanimous consent to be inserted into the hearing record. Without objection, so ordered.

[The information referred to follows:]



WESTERN FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

25030 SW Parkway Ave., Suite 330
Wilsonville, OR 97070
(800) 785-3473 • wfca@wfca.com • www.wfca.com

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, & Transportation
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, & Transportation
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

The Western Fire Chiefs Association (WFCA) serves the 11 western states with a mission which emphasizes wildfire, technology, and their intersection of the two.

We ask that this committee support President Trump's nomination of Ms. Arielle Roth as Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

Ms. Roth has built credibility with our chiefs in her prior service at the Federal Communications Commission and House Energy and Commerce Committee, and we trust that she will serve the interests of the public safety community in her new role.

The NTIA fulfills a meaningful role with public safety, in part due to their role with the Network (FirstNet) Authority. FirstNet is public safety's digital lifeline of reliable cellular communications, and even though no federal monies are required to support FirstNet, non-value-added oversight can impede service to the public safety community. Ms. Roth has our confidence as a defender of this critical and unparalleled digital highway.

The WFCA appreciates the opportunity to reflect positively on her appointment in service to more than 30,000 public safety agencies and nearly 7 million connections who have chosen FirstNet as their digital lifeline.

Sincerely,

Mark Niemeyer
President, Western Fire Chiefs Association

ALASKA
alaskafirechiefs.org

ARIZONA
azfirechiefs.org

CALIFORNIA
calchiefs.org

HAWAII
hawaiiirechiefs.org

IDAHO
idahofirechiefs.org

MONTANA
montanafirechiefs.com

NEVADA
nvfirecht.org

OREGON
ofca.org

UTAH
utahfirechiefs.org

WASHINGTON
washingtonfirechiefs.com

WESTERN PACIFIC ISLANDS
wpiafc.com



February 4, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz
United States Senate
167 Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cruz:

NATE congratulates Arielle Roth on being nominated to serve in the influential position of NTIA Administrator. We have collaborated with Arielle in her previous roles working on wireless, telecom, and communications infrastructure policy issues on Capitol Hill. Arielle possesses extensive experience and keen knowledge of the many policy and regulatory issues facing the industry and will be able to hit the ground running on day one on the job once confirmed for this position. Our community looks forward to continue working closely with Arielle and urges the United States Senate to schedule her confirmation hearing and vote to approve her nomination in an expedient manner.

NATE is a non-profit trade association dedicated to providing a unified voice for companies in the diverse tower, broadband, and communications infrastructure industries. Today, the Association boasts approximately 1,000 member companies (mostly small businesses) that construct, service or maintain hundreds of thousands of communications towers and next generation networks throughout the United States. The NATE community is made up of the small businesses working on the front lines of broadband deployment and we look forward to working with the next administration on shared policies that serve to enable connectivity for everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Todd Schlekeway", is written over a light gray, stylized signature graphic.

Todd Schlekeway
NATE President & CEO



NATE: The Communications Infrastructure Contractors Association
8 2nd Street SE
Watertown, SD 57201

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader, United States Senate
Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader, United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman, Senate Committee on
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Nomination Endorsement of Assistant Secretary for the National
Telecommunications and Information Administration**

February 18, 2025

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

We write to express our strong support for the nomination of Arielle Roth to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information in the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. Ms. Roth is exceptionally well-qualified to serve as Assistant Secretary and lead the NTIA at this critical time.

As Senior Counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, she has fought to protect free speech and kids online, while steering Congress and the Administration towards future-facing policies. She has demonstrated leadership in tackling the most challenging communications policy issues, such as the deployment of ubiquitous broadband to all Americans and reestablishing our country's leadership in 5G and beyond, all while keeping an eye on federal spending and the need to maximize the value for taxpayers of every dollar spent. Her deep understanding of emerging technology and broadband policy, her embrace of creative solutions, and her affinity for good policy across the political spectrum—coupled with her ability to navigate complex regulatory landscapes—makes her uniquely suited for this position.

Ms. Roth's expertise comes from a decade of communications policy expertise. She has served in the Senate and the House of Representatives, worked as a career civil servant at the Federal Communications Commission, and advocated for thoughtful policy reforms at the Hudson Institute. She has shown a keen commitment to closing the digital divide while ensuring responsible stewardship of public resources. Her deep insight into spectrum management, broadband expansion, and regulatory reform will be critical to marshalling the resources of the NTIA to advance.

The NTIA plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of America's communications landscape, and Ms. Roth's expertise, leadership, and dedication make her the ideal choice for this position. We commend President Trump for this nomination and strongly urge her swift confirmation.

Sincerely,

Nathan Leamer
Executive Director
Digital First Project

Harold Furchtgott-Roth
Senior Fellow and Director
Center for the Economics of the Internet
Hudson Institute

Mike O'Rielly
Senior Fellow
Free State Foundation

Evan Swartztrauber
Senior Fellow
Foundation for American Innovation

Paul Winfree, PhD
President & CEO
Economic Policy Innovation Center

Ryan Walker
Executive Vice President
Heritage Action

Todd Schlekeway
President and CEO
NATE: The Communications
Infrastructure Contractors Association

David Williams
President
Taxpayers Protection Alliance

Tom Hebert
Executive Director
Open Competition Center

Terry Schilling
President
American Principles Project

James Erwin
Executive Director
Digital Liberty

Clare Morrell
Fellow
Ethics and Public Policy Commission

Aiden Buzzetti
President
Bull Moose Project

Ian Adams*
Executive Director
International Center for Law
and Economics

Ashley Baker
Director of Public Policy
Committee For Justice

Gerard Scimeca
Chairman
Consumer Action for a Strong Economy

Jeff Mazzella
President
Center For Individual Freedom

Yaël Ossowski
Deputy Director
Consumer Choice Center

Caden Rosenbaum
Senior Policy Analyst
Libertas Institute

*Denotes signature in individual capacity, affiliation for identification only



February 28, 2025

Chairman Ted Cruz
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
Dirksen Senate Office Building 554
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
Russell Senate Office Building 254
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Confirm Arielle Roth as NTIA administrator

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

On February 3, President Trump nominated Arielle Roth to head the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). **Digital Liberty commends her nomination to lead the NTIA and supports her bid for Senate confirmation.**

Ms. Roth is extremely well-qualified for the role given her experience in the field of Broadband policy and work for the FCC. Other supporters of her nomination include the [Rural Broadband Association](#), [USTelecom](#), and the Wi-Fi alliance, all of whom recognize her capacity to lead the agency and drive innovation in the telecommunications space.

Ms. Roth's career, from Senator Ted Cruz's Policy Director for Communications to advising then-Commissioner Michael O'Reilly, has prepared her well for the challenges the next NTIA administrator will confront. The \$42.5 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program is especially in need of an overhaul from a capable, experienced, and detail-oriented nominee. Ms. Roth fits this profile.

Ms. Roth has also taken a technology neutral stance on broadband expansion, arguing against the tech bias in favor of [fiber-optic technology](#) for the BEAD program. Her stances also include advocating for continued American leadership in the 5G and 6G telecommunications space and promoting innovation and sustained growth in the broadband marketplace by addressing spectrum demand.

Throughout her career, Roth has demonstrated a strong understanding of broadband technology policy. Given the NTIA's pivotal role in shaping the future of America's communications infrastructure, Roth's appointment as Administrator would be a significant step toward ensuring the NTIA and BEAD use their resources efficiently and foster competition in the broadband space.

ATR strongly supports Arielle Roth's nomination to lead the NTIA and urges the Senate to conduct a swift confirmation. Her qualifications and vision make her the ideal commissioner to guide the agency as it works to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving digital landscape. The Committee and the U.S.



Senate should confirm Arielle Roth so that the NTIA and the American people can benefit from her expertise.

Sincerely,

James Erwin
Executive Director
Digital Liberty



Thomas L. Brown, President
 Todd Roberts, Senior Vice President
 Rick Andritsch, Vice President
 Ken Kubacki, Treasurer
 Jeffrey D. Shoaf, Chief Executive Officer
 James V. Christianson, Chief Operating Officer

March 4, 2025

Chairman Ted Cruz
 Commerce, Science & Transportation
 Committee
 United States Senate
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Maria Cantwell
 Commerce, Science & Transportation
 Committee
 United States Senate
 Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: AGC Support for Arielle Roth's Nomination to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

The Associated General Contractors Association (AGC) supports the nomination of Ms. Arielle Roth as Administrator for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). AGC is a national construction trade association representing more than 28,000 construction firms with chapters and members in every state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. AGC members are engaged in excavation and utility construction including broadband deployment projects and understand the importance of expanding internet infrastructure to underserved regions.

Throughout her career in both the public and private sectors, Ms. Roth has demonstrated an understanding of the importance of expanding broadband internet to all Americans. Additionally, Ms. Roth is knowledgeable with the challenges and inefficiencies that exist under current broadband deployment programs aimed at expanding internet to rural and underserved areas.

A major goal for the incoming NTIA Administrator will be carrying out the Broadband Equity and Accessability Deployment (BEAD) program that was included within the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Ms. Roth is familiar with the challenges surrounding the BEAD program and her experience in telecommunications provides her with the background necessary to lead the NTIA to successfully deploy BEAD projects as well as future broadband infrastructure expansion projects. These projects will provide broadband access to Americans all over the country and support well-paying construction jobs.

AGC looks forward to working with Ms. Roth on the construction of our nation's broadband infrastructure and furthering our working relationship with the NTIA. As such, we urge the Senate to quickly confirm her nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey D. Shoaf".

Jeffrey D. Shoaf
 Chief Executive Officer

CC: All members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation

March 4, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

As leading representatives of America's technology and telecommunications industries, we write to express our strong support for the swift confirmation of Arielle Roth as Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and Olivia Trusty as Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Their expertise and leadership are vital to advancing our nation's communications infrastructure and ensuring that the United States remains the global leader in innovation.

Arielle Roth brings extensive experience in technology and telecommunications policy, making her exceptionally qualified to lead the NTIA. Her deep understanding of spectrum management, broadband deployment, and technology policy will be instrumental in shaping a communications landscape that accelerates investment, promotes growth, and enables the next generation of breakthroughs.

Olivia Trusty has significant expertise, with over a decade of service on Capitol Hill including her role as policy director for the Senate Commerce Committee, possesses a comprehensive grasp of communications and technology issues. Her commitment to fostering an environment that prioritizes innovation and encourages technological progress aligns with the FCC's essential role in driving America's digital future.

In today's rapidly evolving digital economy, the NTIA and FCC must have experienced leadership to navigate complex policy challenges and support the deployment of cutting-edge communications infrastructure. The confirmations of Ms. Roth and Ms. Trusty will provide the stability and strategic direction needed to advance policies that strengthen America's position in the global technology landscape.

We commend President Trump for these outstanding nominations and urge the Senate

to proceed swiftly with their confirmations, so that these highly qualified individuals can get to work on behalf of the American people.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

ACT | The App Association
Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions
CEDIA
Consumer Technology Association
CTIA – The Wireless Association
GPS Innovation Alliance
INCOMPAS
Internet Infrastructure Coalition
Information Technology Industry Council
Institute for Education
USTelecom
TechNet
Wireless Infrastructure Association
XR Association



March 7, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Nomination of Arielle Roth to Serve as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for
Communications and Information and Administrator of the National
Telecommunications and Information Administration**

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

This letter is sent on behalf of NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association (“NTCA”) in support of the nomination of Arielle Roth to serve as the Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (“NTIA”). We look forward to a hearing on her nomination in the near future and we hope for her swift confirmation.

By way of background, NTCA represents approximately 850 community-based providers of advanced communications services in the most rural and remote parts of the United States. With a history of serving such areas that spans decades and even over a century in some cases, these operators have long demonstrated their commitment to ensuring that rural America is able to stay connected with the rest of the country and the world. Leveraging a mix of this community commitment, private investment, and support available through programs administered by the FCC and other agencies, they have built cutting-edge networks and deliver voice and broadband services that rival what is available in urban areas.

NTCA and its members have had the privilege of interacting with Ms. Roth as she has served in a variety of capacities on Capitol Hill and at the Federal Communications Commission. She has demonstrated significant policy expertise on communications and broadband issues in these roles, as well as a willingness to work with stakeholders to find solutions that will advance the public interest. We look forward to continuing to work with her on the shared objective of ensuring that every American gets and stays connected.

We thank you for consideration of this correspondence as you review the nomination of Ms. Roth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shirley Bloomfield". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Shirley Bloomfield
Chief Executive Officer



AMERICA'S
COMMUNICATIONS
ASSOCIATION
#ACAConnects

Grant Spellmeyer, President and CEO
Direct Dial: 202-290-0233
E-Mail: gspellmeyer@acacommconnects.org

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chair, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
554 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Chair Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

I write in support of Arielle Roth's nomination to serve as the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information and the Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

ACA Connects: America's Communication Association proudly represents more than 500 independent broadband and cable operators. Our Members cover all 50 states – offering connectivity to nearly 1 in 4 American households. They are at the forefront of connecting homes, companies, main street, schools, hospitals, and more.

We greatly value Ms. Roth's expertise and leadership in telecommunications policies. From her time working at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and the Senate Commerce Committee, she has extensive experience in the policymaking and regulatory world. She's been at the forefront of steering meaningful solutions to support America's telecommunications standing in the world.

Ms. Roth's nomination comes at a critical time as the administration works to fix the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program and ensure it meets its connectivity mandate. ACA Connects believes Ms. Roth is the right person for this job to work with Congress and states to fine tune this program and get shovels in the ground as soon as possible. As community-based, independent providers working tirelessly every day to close the digital divide, our Members look forward to working with her to advance NTIA's critical mission to build a better-connected world, especially in rural America.

ACA Connects thanks you for your thoughtful consideration of Arielle Roth through the nomination process. We urge support by the full Committee and the Senate.

..... We Are The Premier Association Delivering High-Impact Advocacy and Support.

401 BRKICH WAY • SUITE 6 • BEAVER, PA 15009
p 412.922.8300 w www.acacommconnects.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant Spellmeyer", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Grant Spellmeyer
President & CEO



BROADBAND
WITHOUT
BOUNDARIES

March 21, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

On behalf of WISPA – *Broadband Without Boundaries*, we write to express our strong support for Arielle Roth's confirmation as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information and NTIA Administrator. NTIA's mission is imperative for our nation to remain competitive globally. Ms. Roth's extensive expertise and leadership skills will be invaluable as the agency continues its critical work.

WISPA represents the interests of hundreds of small and medium-sized fixed wireless internet service providers and vendors. WISPA members deliver broadband connectivity to approximately 10 million consumers, businesses and industrial users, first responders, and community institutions, often in areas of the country where other providers have declined to invest. To provide reliable broadband services, fixed wireless providers frequently use unlicensed, shared, and exclusive-use licensed spectrum at low-band, mid-band, and high-band frequencies, predominantly in rural, unserved, and underserved areas. In many rural and remote areas, these providers offer the only terrestrial source of fixed broadband access. In regions with other broadband options, they provide a community-based alternative that benefits customers by fostering competition, lowering costs, and improving the quality of broadband services.

Throughout her career, Ms. Roth has demonstrated a strong commitment to enhancing U.S. economic growth and technological leadership. She has played a leading role in crafting policies to address spectrum demand, among other matters, which are essential to the development and innovation of the broadband marketplace.

Ms. Roth has also been a stalwart champion of the U.S. taxpayer, providing critical insight and analysis for legislators and policymakers in their oversight of such programs as BEAD and the Universal Service Fund. Her experience and ability to navigate complex regulatory environments equip her with the skills to lead initiatives promoting innovation and competitiveness in our economy.

We would also like to highlight Ms. Roth's work on the BEAD program. Having her at the helm of NTIA would be incredibly encouraging for the program's success. WISPA hopes NTIA,



under her guidance, will bring BEAD back to the tech-neutral intent of its enabling legislation and thus remove those elements that would lead to wasteful overbuilding and keep small providers out of the program. WISPA believes such modification could be achieved by allowing all technologies that can fully meet the technical standards into the program, giving states a greater chance of getting all communities connected quickly and cost-effectively.

WISPA is confident that Ms. Roth will bring integrity and visionary leadership to NTIA. We look forward to her confirmation and stand ready to help Ms. Roth help all Americans access the Internet and participate meaningfully in our economy.

Sincerely,

David Zumwalt
President and CEO
WISPA – *Broadband Without Boundaries*

Curtis LeGeyt
President and CEO



March 24, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz,

On behalf of America's local television and radio broadcasters, I write to express support for the nomination of Arielle Roth to serve as administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

Ms. Roth's extensive experience and leadership in communications policy make her an outstanding choice to lead the agency. We have worked closely with Ms. Roth in her role as Policy Director on the Senate Commerce Committee, and are confident that her deep understanding of broadcasters' unique contributions to local communities, including through spectrum innovations like NextGen TV, will help improve and expand access to this and other vital communications services for all Americans.

We are grateful to the committee for its work in overseeing our nation's communications policy and ensuring a strong, competitive and forward-looking media landscape. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this nomination and look forward to continuing our work with NTIA under Ms. Roth's leadership.

Sincerely,

Curtis J. LeGeyt



JONATHAN SPALTER
President and Chief Executive Officer

March 24, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee
554 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Senate Commerce Committee
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

On behalf of USTelecom – The Broadband Association, I write in strong support of the nomination of Arielle Roth to serve as Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Given her extensive expertise in telecommunications policy, her commitment to closing the digital divide, and her deep understanding of the critical partnerships that power our nation's connectivity efforts, Ms. Roth is exceptionally well-qualified to lead NTIA at this pivotal moment.

At USTelecom, our members—from innovative local broadband providers to global companies delivering world-class connectivity—work every day to advance the mission of universal, secure, and reliable broadband. Expanding digital infrastructure creates opportunity and ensures that every household, business, and community across America has access to the tools needed to compete, learn, and thrive in the modern economy. As NTIA Administrator, Ms. Roth would bring a commitment to pragmatic solutions and an ability to bring public and private sector stakeholders together in common cause.

NTIA plays a crucial role in expanding broadband deployment, implementing programs such as the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) initiative, and fostering policies that encourage innovation and investment in our broadband ecosystem. We share NTIA's vision of leveraging public-private partnerships to drive meaningful progress and know that under Ms. Roth's leadership, NTIA will continue this mission to bridge the digital divide and accelerate broadband expansion.

From streamlining broadband permitting to maximizing federal investments in digital infrastructure, the collaboration between NTIA and broadband providers will be instrumental in delivering high-speed, resilient, affordable, and future-proofed connectivity to every American. Ms. Roth's deep policy experience make her supremely equipped to lead these efforts with both urgency and long-term strategic vision.

USTelecom looks forward to working with Ms. Roth and NTIA to ensure broadband remains a foundation for our nation's economic growth and global competitiveness. We urge the Committee to favorably report Ms. Roth as NTIA Administrator and to move her nomination quickly for full Senate consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Spalter", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jonathan Spalter



International Association of Fire Chiefs

8251 Greensboro Drive, Suite 650 • McLean, VA 22102
Tel: 703.273.0911 • IAFC.org

March 25, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of the approximately 11,000 members of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), I ask that you support President Trump's nomination of Ms. Arielle Roth as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information. This position is otherwise known as Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Ms. Roth's extensive work in telecommunications policy has prepared her to succeed in this significant role.

The NTIA plays a significant role in public safety communications, because it hosts the federal First Responder Network (FirstNet) Authority. FirstNet was created by Congress in 2012 to serve as the national broadband network for public safety. It is important to have experienced leadership at NTIA that understands the critical role that FirstNet plays in ensuring mission-critical communications during acts of terrorism and other major incidents and disasters. From her experience with the Federal Communications Commission, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the IAFC believes that Ms. Roth will be an effective NTIA Administrator.

The IAFC is grateful for the opportunity to endorse Ms. Roth for the position of NTIA Administrator. We thank the committee for scheduling her nomination hearing. In addition, we look forward to working with you to ensure her Senate confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Waldo".

Fire Chief Josh Waldo, CFO, EFO
IAFC President and Board Chair 2024 – 2025

:sa



Discover all that we do at ncta.com

March 25, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

We write in strong support for Arielle Roth's nomination as Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Her extensive experience in communications policy, including leadership roles in Congress and at the Federal Communications Commission, makes her an ideal candidate to lead NTIA in its important mission.

Her appointment comes at a pivotal time, as the NTIA oversees key initiatives such as the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program and the management of national spectrum priorities. These efforts are essential to closing the digital divide and ensuring the United States remains a global leader in broadband infrastructure and spectrum policy.

We look forward to collaborating with Ms. Roth, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, and the entire Department of Commerce on policies that promote American innovation and technological leadership. Ms. Roth's leadership at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will be crucial in preserving the United States' global leadership in the digital economy.

Sincerely,

Michael K. Powell
President & CEO
NCTA – The Internet & Television Association



**NATIONAL
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®**

328 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.E.
WASHINGTON, DC 20002

PATRICK YOES
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JIM PASCO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

26 March 2025

The Honorable Ted E. Cruz
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science and
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria E. Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Senator Cantwell,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for the nomination of Arielle Roth to serve as the Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

She currently serves as the Policy Director of this Committee, so I am sure you both are very familiar with her work. Before coming to the Senate, she also spent over three years at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in various roles. She is an expert in telecommunications and spectrum-related issues who is well-versed in the communications needs of law enforcement, especially with respect to the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). She is a proven leader and advocate, and she would have our full support and confidence on day one.

On behalf of the more than 377,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I urge the Committee to swiftly send Ms. Roth's nomination to be the next Administrator of NTIA to the Senate floor for confirmation. If I can provide any additional information about her, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in our Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,

Patrick Yoes
National President

cc: Clint McNear, President, Texas State Lodge
Frank Plowick, National Trustee, Texas State Lodge
Jeffrey Anaya, President, Washington State Lodge
Jack Simington, National Trustee, Washington State Lodge

Chairman CRUZ. Senators will have until the close of business Monday, March 31, to submit questions for the record. The nominee will have until the close of business Friday, April 4, to respond to those questions.

This concludes today's hearing. And, by the way, your children performed their task beautifully. A terrific success. The Committee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 3:46 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. JOHN THUNE TO
ARIELLE ROTH

Question 1. Can you detail NTIA's role in the Federal government's administration of spectrum? Specifically, can you clarify how Federal agencies coordinate to resolve issues when a conflict arises between commercial users and Federal agencies' use of spectrum?

Answer. As mandated in its enabling statute, NTIA is the coordinator of Federal spectrum and assigns spectrum to Federal agencies. NTIA is also the President's advisor on spectrum and is tasked with promoting the best and most efficient use of spectrum. NTIA does not auction spectrum or have auction authority—that is the domain of the FCC—but has traditionally helped the FCC with identifying spectrum for auctions.

In its role as the coordinator of Federal spectrum, NTIA plays a central role in ensuring that Federal spectrum users are able to meet their critical missions and works to protect these missions when non-federal users, including commercial entities, seek access to federally held or adjacent spectrum. While balancing these interests is complex, NTIA works closely with other agencies on spectrum coordination primarily through the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC)—an interagency committee that advises NTIA on frequency assignments for Federal agencies and other policies and technical issues pertaining to spectrum management.

NTIA is also responsible for representing the view of the Executive Branch on spectrum matters before the FCC, including by maintaining clear and frequent channels of communication with the FCC.

This process helps ensure that spectrum is put to its best and highest use, supporting innovation and national priorities alike.

Question 2. As the FCC looks to expand access to additional licensed spectrum, do you expect the same coordination that you have detailed to continue across agencies to ensure our national security interests are not compromised in the future?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to not only maintain but, where possible, improve the close coordinating relationship with all Federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, to protect national security and other critical Federal missions.

Question 3. How will you work to ensure more spectrum is used efficiently and made available for commercial use, including both licensed and unlicensed technologies?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with NTIA's technical experts and other Federal agencies to look for efficiencies in the Federal government's use of spectrum while protecting national security and public safety. With advances in technology, there is likely to be an ever-increasing demand for a variety of users to access spectrum and opportunities to continue to evolve in our efforts to manage spectrum.

Question 4. If confirmed, will you commit to working with Secretary Lutnick on his review of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program to ensure that broadband funds are deployed quickly and efficiently to truly unserved areas?

Answer. Yes.

Question 5. The NTIA has not been reauthorized by Congress since 1992. What, if any, specific reforms should Congress consider if a reauthorization effort comes together, and will you commit to working with the members of this Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on a reauthorization effort?

Answer. I commit to working with this Committee on any legislative efforts as requested. As I have not yet been confirmed, it would be premature for me to weigh in on reforms to NTIA for Congress to consider. I would welcome the opportunity to work with your office on this issue upon confirmation. And if Congress were to pass NTIA reauthorization legislation, I would faithfully implement it.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. DEB FISCHER TO
ARIELLE ROTH

Question 1. I appreciated meeting with you last week. As we talked about, you will have a crucial role managing Federal government spectrum, if you are confirmed to lead the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). I also appreciated your understanding of how critical the Iron Dome has been to Israel's missile defense, and how President Trump's plans for the United States' own Golden Dome—which will need to defend against different and more complex threats—are essential to our national security. As USSTRATCOM and USSPACECOM testified publicly on March 26, 2025, these plans involve key bands of Department of Defense spectrum, including the 3.1–3.45 gigahertz (GHz) and the 7/8 GHz bands. A few questions related to this matter are below:

a. In situations of potential reallocation, should DOD *co-lead* feasibility studies on its spectrum assignments with NTIA? Please answer yes or no.

Answer. The Department of Defense should have a seat at the table in any study or discussion affecting its use of spectrum. Per NTIA's enabling statute, NTIA oversees and leads the Federal government's use of spectrum, assigns spectrum to agencies, and serves as the President's principal advisor on telecommunications and spectrum management.

If confirmed, I will work to not only maintain but, where possible, improve NTIA's close coordinating relationship with all Federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, to protect national security and other critical Federal missions.

b. Are there segments of the 3.1–3.45 GHz band that should be auctioned for full-power use, in your view? If yes, would you please identify the specific frequencies?

Answer. As with any spectrum decision affecting Federal missions, national security and public safety must be paramount. Since I have not yet been confirmed, I have not yet had an opportunity to review the status of studies affecting this band or consult with technical or national security experts at NTIA or the Department of Defense. As such, it would be premature for me to take a position on what, if any, segments of this band should be auctioned.

c. Are there segments of the 7.125–8.4 GHz band that should be auctioned for full-power use, in your view? If yes, would you please identify the specific frequencies?

Answer. As with any spectrum decision affecting Federal missions, national security and public safety must be paramount. Since I have not been confirmed, I have not yet had an opportunity to review the status of studies affecting this band or confer with technical or national security experts at NTIA or the Department of Defense. As such, it would be premature for me to take a position on what, if any, segments of this band should be auctioned.

Question 2. Should the estimates of spectrum auction revenues also include calculations of the relocation costs for incumbent systems? Please answer yes or no.

Answer. Yes.

Question 3. Do China's lower 3 band frequencies from 3.3–3.4 GHz have limits for low-power use for indoor coverage?

Answer. Yes.

Question 4. Given that there is no statutory definition of low-, mid-, or high-band spectrum, what is your understanding of where mid-band spectrum begins and ends—which two frequencies, specifically?

Answer. My understanding of mid-band is functional, rather than focused on a defined set of frequencies. It refers to spectrum that offers a balance of coverage of speed, and is suitable for data-heavy, reliable, and low-latency mobile broadband communications. Most ranges I have seen focus on spectrum start between 1 GHz and 2 GHz and end between 7 GHz and 12 GHz.

Question 5. Do you believe that exclusively licensed spectrum is more valuable than unlicensed spectrum? How would you prioritize them in managing Federal spectrum, if you are confirmed?

Answer. I believe that U.S. global technology leadership depends on an efficient and effective use of spectrum through an all-of-the-above approach: licensed, unlicensed, full-power, low-power, and satellite use. The Federal government also relies on a variety of spectrum use cases to perform critical missions. However, licensing and power rules regarding commercial spectrum are generally a matter for the FCC, not NTIA.

Question 6. I am looking forward to Nebraska finally getting its BEAD program dollars out the door. The state has a strong plan that abides by its budget, includes robust stakeholder feedback, and would ensure broadband services reach all remaining unserved households.

a. How long do you expect to see the current review period on the BEAD program take?

b. If confirmed, would you commit to keeping Nebraska's current BEAD plan on track without delays?

c. If confirmed, would you implement a new per-location funding cap on initial BEAD plans that have already been approved? If so:

i. What would a reasonable threshold for a per-location cap be?

ii. Would such a cap be an overall maximum per location, or would it be a state-wide average?

Answer. Connecting every American to broadband expeditiously is my top priority and I agree that the Department must move quickly to complete review of Nebraska's plan. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA staff to expedite the BEAD program, get funding to the states, and expand broadband buildout, consistent with the law. I look forward to working with NTIA's career staff and state broadband offices to cut red tape and unnecessary bureaucracy, to avoid further delays and minimize work for states, consistent with the law.

If confirmed and the issue of a per-location cap were to come up, I would consult with legal counsel, NTIA's career staff, state broadband offices, and industry stakeholders, as appropriate. Moreover, a per-location cap, should it come up, would need to account for consideration of high-cost areas, including high-cost Tribal areas.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. DAN SULLIVAN TO
ARIELLE ROTH

Question 1. As I have shared with this Committee time and again, Alaska is different, and I need you to recognize that difference as you take the helm at NTIA. In Alaska, broadband access is critical for our communities, yet the terrain is unlike anywhere else. The weather is extreme. The building season is short. And, the permitting process is challenged by Federal land ownership. No other state has so many remote communities that are unconnected from any other infrastructure such as roads or utilities.

In all likelihood, you're going to be put in charge of an unprecedented amount of broadband grant funding. It is critical that we get this right. Will you commit to come to Alaska to appreciate our unique challenges, and to evaluate Alaskan state and tribal applicants with these challenges in mind?

Answer. I recognize the uniqueness of Alaska's broadband challenges—something I came to learn through my years working at the FCC on programs like the Alaska Plan and the Rural Health Care Program. It would be my honor to visit Alaska. If confirmed, I commit to implementing all of NTIA's legal requirements, including by taking into account Alaska's unique challenges when reviewing the state's applications.

Question 2. In October, NTIA announced that Alaska will be obligated over \$1 billion. I know you are aware of the criticisms that have been made that the Biden Administration layered on requirements that are beyond the IIJA law in the BEAD NOFO.

I ask that you remove the Biden-era extraneous regulations as you review the BEAD program, and do so quickly as time is money for applicants. We have great needs in Alaska with unserved areas. Will you commit to that?

Answer. Connecting every American to broadband expeditiously is my top priority. If confirmed, I look forward to working with NTIA's career staff and state broadband offices to cut red tape and unnecessary bureaucracy, to avoid further delays and minimize work for states, consistent with the law. If confirmed, I will work with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA staff to expedite the BEAD program, get funding to the states, and expand broadband buildout, consistent with the law.

Question 3. The BEAD program's success depends on allowing states to lead. Alaska knows best where broadband is lacking and understands the challenges presented by our low population density, extreme weather, and difficult terrain. Federal requirements should not impose one-size-fits-all solutions but instead empower states to design deployment strategies that work for their specific circumstances.

Will you commit to me that NTIA will defer to states in making choices that they believe will deliver the best possible broadband for their consumers and communities given the amount of funding they have?

Answer. I recognize that every state is different and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. I agree that states should have flexibility to tailor solutions to their individual circumstances, consistent with the law.

If confirmed, I will work with states to deliver the best broadband service possible for their constituents, consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 4. The unique challenges due to our vast, remote, and rugged terrain make technology neutrality truly critical to serving Alaskans. We need a combination of technologies to be available, including fiber, fixed wireless, and satellite.

Notably, Alaska lacks middle mile fiber, and these projects play a critical role bridging the gap between core Internet networks and local communities. Given Alaska's vast and remote geography, reliable middle mile infrastructure is essential to connecting underserved and unserved areas and for supporting healthcare, education, and economic development. By addressing the unique challenges of Alaska terrain, middle mile fiber ensures Internet access for generations to come.

If a one-sized-fits-all per location cap is put in place for fiber for projects in Alaska, it is hard to image how any projects will be built for my constituents. Will you commit to working with me to ensure that resources are allocated in a manner that takes into consideration the needs of Alaskans?

Answer. Yes.

Question 5. The Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) is intended to spur economic development and create opportunities for remote employment, online entrepreneurship, remote learning, and telehealth in remote Tribal communities.

Given the size of the broadband challenge in Alaska—and given the limited resources available in Alaska to implement this program—some of Alaska's TBCP projects require attention by NTIA to make sure funding is deployed efficiently and effectively.

Will you commit to working with Alaska's Tribal entities to address the unique challenges of deploying broadband infrastructure in our state to make sure this program works as intended?

Answer. Yes.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO TO ARIELLE ROTH

Question 1—BEAD Review Status

Mrs. Roth, as we discussed in our meeting, I am very interested in seeing West Virginia benefit from the BEAD program. While I can't believe after 3 and a half years we still have not seen a single location connected from this program. I know that my state is right on the cusp of having its final proposal ready and will be granted a 90-day extension of its deadline in late April.

While I am all for improvements to BEAD to speed up deployment taking a long review and making states like mine wait longer does not make sense. The review started 3 weeks ago and not many details have been made public. I did have a productive call with Secretary Lutnick last week, but I expect that he will rely on your broadband expertise when it comes to BEAD.

- In your opinion, is July a reasonable deadline for the review to be completed?

Answer. As I have not yet been confirmed, I cannot commit to a specific timeline for such review. However, connecting every American to broadband expeditiously is my top priority. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA staff to expedite the BEAD program, get funding to West Virginia, and expand broadband buildout, consistent with the law. I look forward to working with NTIA's career staff and West Virginia's broadband office to cut red tape and unnecessary bureaucracy, to avoid further delays and minimize work for states, consistent with the law.

Question 2—BEAD State Control

Answer. My state has put in the work for the last 2 years jumping through every hoop since the Biden Notice of Funding Opportunity came out. While I am all for tech neutrality and easing lots of burdensome requirements like the labor mandates—if a state wants to use fiber they should be able to.

- Do you agree that NTIA's role is to make sure that states are executing their plans to connect people and not dictating that they use any specific technology that might cost less but may not be as reliable?

Answer. I recognize that every state is different and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. I agree that states should have flexibility to tailor solutions to their individual circumstances, consistent with the law.

I support an all-of-the-above solution, including fiber as well as alternative technologies where appropriate. If confirmed, I will work with states to deliver the best broadband service possible for their constituents, consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 3—BEAD Deployment Cap

I know that many are concerned about waste and overbuilding in the BEAD program. West Virginia has nearly 97,000 locations that are unserved and BEAD eligible.

Overbuilding will NOT be an issue in my state though it could be in D.C. and other places that are receiving money and have hardly any locations that are unserved and underserved.

I am also against connecting a single remote cabin with fiber for \$100,000—that doesn't make sense. NTIA's role should be working with states to prevent this kind of waste in their applications.

- Do you support an arbitrary deployment cost cap or should deployment costs be considered on a case by case basis and worked out with the states individually?

Answer. I do not support taking any arbitrary actions. If the issue of a per-location cap were to come up, I would consult with legal counsel, NTIA's career staff, state broadband offices, and industry stakeholders, as appropriate. Moreover, a per-location cap, should it come up, would need to account for consideration of high-cost areas, including high-cost Tribal areas.

Question 4—Speeding up NTIA's Approval Process

In the last administration, West Virginia submitted their Initial Proposal Volume II to NTIA in January of 2024 and did not get it approved until April. I know there has to be some back-and-forth but waiting 3 months after lots of consultation on the front end is unacceptable.

- What ways can NTIA streamline its approval process so states like West Virginia do not have to wait and wait when they submit their final proposal?

Answer. Connecting every American to broadband expeditiously is my top priority. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA staff to expedite the BEAD program, get funding to the states, and expand broadband build-out, consistent with the law. I look forward to working with NTIA's career staff and state broadband offices to cut red tape and unnecessary bureaucracy, to avoid further delays and minimize work for states, consistent with the law.

Question 5—BEAD Speeding up Deployment

I am frustrated by the long delay of this program and I know it's been touched on already, but there are a number of things in the Biden NO-FO that are not only burdensome but will delay deployment.

- How can fiber deployment, for example be sped up?

Answer. I agree that NTIA's main focus should be on expediting deployment and making up for lost time. Reducing permitting burdens and delays might be one way to speed up fiber deployment. I would welcome the opportunity to work with your office on this issue.

Question 6—BEAD Legislation

One policy area I care deeply about is permitting reform. Under Biden's American Rescue Plan broadband projects were exempted from NEPA approval. Yet right now BEAD projects would be subjected to the process. This will certainly slow down families from being connected.

- How much faster would NEPA exemptions speed up deployment?

Answer. Permitting reform is badly needed in the United States, and your leadership on that front has been critical in moving that effort forward. Regarding BEAD projects, it is unquestionable that NEPA exemptions would speed up deployment. As you noted in your recent Environment and Public Works Committee hearing "Improving the Federal Environmental Review and Permitting Processes," permitting delays significantly and adversely impact a multitude of important infrastructure projects from water line and bridge replacements to broadband deployment. While it is difficult to say precisely how much NEPA reviews delay a specific broadband deployment project, a 2024 report by the Department of Commerce Inspector General estimated delays could be two years or more just to complete the NEPA review.

- Do you support waiving the NEPA process for BEAD?

Answer. As you noted, under Biden's American Rescue Plan broadband projects were exempted from NEPA approval. In the last Congress, Senators Cruz and Kelly authored the Building Chips in America Act, which was enacted in October of last year, to exempt semiconductor projects receiving funds from the CHIPS and Science Act from NEPA reviews. Clearly, there is a bipartisan recognition that the NEPA process unnecessarily delays infrastructure projects, especially in those cases where the only element of the project triggering NEPA review is simply the provision of

Federal funds or the fact that a project crosses Federal lands. As you highlighted in your recent Environment and Public Works Committee hearing, “Improving the Federal Environmental Review and Permitting Processes,” expanding categorical exclusions, enacting real time limits on permitting approvals, and narrowing the scope of judicial review for legal challenges would also significantly help speed up federally supported infrastructure construction and deployment, including broadband deployment under the BEAD program.

Question 7—BEAD State Allocations

West Virginia was awarded \$1.2 billion and has spent nearly 2 years coming up with a plan to serve 97,000 unserved locations plus over 15,000 underserved locations. The idea that NTIA would try to claw that money back goes against what Secretary Lutnick has told me on multiple occasions. This topic was brought up in the hearing.

- Can you commit to not changing the allocated amounts that states have been allocated?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release West Virginia’s allocated funds consistent with NTIA’s statutory authority.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. MARIA CANTWELL TO
ARIELLE ROTH

Ongoing Spectrum Studies. During the first Trump Administration, there were failures to coordinate on Federal and commercial spectrum policy. I believe we must create a coordinated approach to domestic spectrum policy, where agencies such as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Defense (DoD), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) work together with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and Federal Communications Commission (FCC)—cooperatively—on spectrum.

Question 1. Yes or no. Do you agree that NTIA, DoD, and other Federal agencies must complete the ongoing studies of the lower 3 Gigahertz and 7 and 8 Gigahertz bands before a decision is made to reallocate that spectrum?

Answer. I agree that rigorous and careful study should precede decisions to reallocate these spectrum bands.

Question 2. Do you think it’s wise to auction Federal spectrum before technical studies are finished to determine the viability of relocating Federal systems?

Answer. No.

Question 3. If confirmed, will you commit to collaborating on a spectrum policy that engages stakeholders from the Department of Commerce (DOC), DoD, DOT, FCC, and industry, to work towards resolution to restore U.S. leadership in innovation?

Answer. Yes.

Question 4. If confirmed, will you commit to meeting with the members of the Interagency Spectrum Advisory Council upon confirmation?

Answer. Yes.

Question 5. If confirmed, will you commit to receiving a classified briefing about the importance of spectrum for national security from the DoD and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence within a reasonable timeframe?

Answer. Yes.

Question 6. Yes or no. Do you agree that we cannot put our national security and public safety at risk to free up spectrum for sale to the commercial sector?

Answer. Yes.

Question 7. Yes or no, do you agree that proper coordination of spectrum use is vital?

Answer. Yes.

Infrastructure, Affordability, and Broadband Equity Access and Deployment. The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) provided access to affordable Internet for 23 million households before Congressional Republicans blocked efforts to renew the program last year. While the ACP is now defunct, millions of Americans still struggle to afford Internet access, even though it is vital for modern life.

Question 1. Do you agree that affordability is a major factor in our country’s digital divide?

Answer. Yes.

Question 2. How do you see NTIA's role ensuring broadband is affordable for all?
 Answer. Congress has directed NTIA to play a role in promoting broadband affordability by administering broadband programs like BEAD. NTIA can also help to reduce unnecessary permitting burdens that can increase the cost of providing broadband and expand commercial spectrum access, which in turn increases both mobile and broadband competition, driving down costs for consumers.

Question 3. Yes or no. Do you commit to follow the law and require all Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) subgrantees to offer at least one "low-cost broadband service option," as required under the statute?

Answer. Yes, I commit to following the law.

Infrastructure and BEAD Allocations. The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021 appropriated \$42 billion for the BEAD program, \$1.2 billion of which was allocated to the State of Washington to connect households to broadband. The commitment that Congress made to reach the goal of connecting unserved and underserved households is well underway, with plans in all 56 states and territories approved by NTIA, in compliance with the law.

Question 1. Yes or no. If confirmed, will you commit to releasing all allocated funds to the states that have already had their final proposals approved? If no, why not?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to expeditiously release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 2. Yes or no. Ms. Roth, do you agree that states need the flexibility to implement the BEAD program, and ensure that it works for the people in each state and territory—and that what works in Rhode Island may not work in Texas?

Answer. Yes.

Question 2a. Yes or no. Will you commit to providing states with the flexibility to use their BEAD funds to select the providers and technologies that work best for their unique circumstances?

Answer. I recognize that every state is different and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. I agree that states should have flexibility to tailor solutions to their individual circumstances, consistent with the law.

If confirmed, I will work with states to deliver the best broadband service possible for their constituents, consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 3. Yes or no. If a state like West Virginia wants to use its allocation to fund fiber rather than satellite, will you stand in its way?

Answer. No, I recognize that every state is different and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. I agree that states should have flexibility to tailor solutions to their individual circumstances, consistent with the law.

If confirmed, I will work with states to deliver the best broadband service possible for their constituents, consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 4. Do you believe NTIA has the authority to establish a national per location cap as part of the BEAD program? If so, please cite the specific provisions and explain your reasoning?

Answer. If confirmed and the issue of a per-location cap were to come up, I would consult with legal counsel, NTIA's career staff, state broadband offices, and industry stakeholders, as appropriate. Moreover, a per-location cap, should it come up, would need to account for consideration of high-cost areas, including high-cost Tribal areas.

Preserving BEAD Allocations. During your hearing, I was disappointed that you did not provide a clear commitment to preserve the BEAD allocations that NTIA made to states in 2023. The American people deserve clarity on this important question. As such, please provide a Yes or No response to the following questions:

Question 1. Will you commit to preserving the \$1,227,742,066.30 that NTIA allocated in 2023 to my home state of Washington?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 2. Will you commit to preserving the \$1,401,221,901.77 that NTIA allocated to Alabama?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 3. Will you commit to preserving the \$1,017,139,672.42 that NTIA allocated to Alaska?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 4. Will you commit to preserving the \$37,564,827.53 that NTIA allocated to American Samoa?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 5. Will you commit to preserving the \$993,112,231.37 that NTIA allocated to Arizona?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 6. Will you commit to preserving the \$1,024,303,993.86 that NTIA allocated to Arkansas?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 7. Will you commit to preserving the \$1,864,136,508.93 that NTIA allocated to California?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 8. Will you commit to preserving the \$826,522,650.41 that NTIA allocated to Colorado?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 9. Will you commit to preserving the \$80,796,709.02 that NTIA allocated to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 10. Will you commit to preserving the \$144,180,792.71 that NTIA allocated to Connecticut?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 11. Will you commit to preserving the \$107,748,384.66 that NTIA allocated to Delaware?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 12. Will you commit to preserving the \$100,694,786.93 that NTIA allocated to the District of Columbia?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 13. Will you commit to preserving the \$1,169,947,392.70 that NTIA allocated to Florida?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 14. Will you commit to preserving the \$1,307,214,371.30 that NTIA allocated to Georgia?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 15. Will you commit to preserving the \$156,831,733.59 that NTIA allocated to Guam?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 16. Will you commit to preserving the \$149,484,493.57 that NTIA allocated to Hawaii?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 17. Will you commit to preserving the \$583,256,249.88 that NTIA allocated to Idaho?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 18. Will you commit to preserving the \$1,040,420,751.50 that NTIA allocated to Illinois?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 19. Will you commit to preserving the \$868,109,929.79 that NTIA allocated to Indiana?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 20. Will you commit to preserving the \$415,331,313.00 that NTIA allocated to Iowa?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 21. Will you commit to preserving the \$451,725,998.15 that NTIA allocated to Kansas?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 22. Will you commit to preserving the \$1,086,172,536.86 that NTIA allocated to Kentucky?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 23. Will you commit to preserving the \$1,355,554,552.94 that NTIA allocated to Louisiana?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 24. Will you commit to preserving the \$271,977,723.07 that NTIA allocated to Maine?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 25. Will you commit to preserving the \$267,738,400.71 that NTIA allocated to Maryland?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 26. Will you commit to preserving the \$147,422,464.39 that NTIA allocated to Massachusetts?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 27. Will you commit to preserving the \$1,559,362,479.29 that NTIA allocated to Michigan?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 28. Will you commit to preserving the \$651,839,368.20 that NTIA allocated to Minnesota?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 29. Will you commit to preserving the \$1,203,561,563.05 that NTIA allocated to Mississippi?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 30. Will you commit to preserving the \$1,736,302,708.39 that NTIA allocated to Missouri?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 31. Will you commit to preserving the \$628,973,798.59 that NTIA allocated to Montana?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 32. Will you commit to preserving the \$405,281,070.41 that NTIA allocated to Nebraska?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 33. Will you commit to preserving the \$416,666,229.74 that NTIA allocated to Nevada?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 34. Will you commit to preserving the \$196,560,278.97 that NTIA allocated to New Hampshire?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 35. Will you commit to preserving the \$263,689,548.65 that NTIA allocated to New Jersey?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 36. Will you commit to preserving the \$675,372,311.86 that NTIA allocated to New Mexico?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 37. Will you commit to preserving the \$664,618,251.49 that NTIA allocated to New York?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 38. Will you commit to preserving the \$1,532,999,481.15 that NTIA allocated to North Carolina?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 39. Will you commit to preserving the \$130,162,815.12 that NTIA allocated to North Dakota?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 40. Will you commit to preserving the \$793,688,107.63 that NTIA allocated to Ohio?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 41. Will you commit to preserving the \$797,435,691.25 that NTIA allocated to Oklahoma?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 42. Will you commit to preserving the \$688,914,932.17 that NTIA allocated to Oregon?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 43. Will you commit to preserving the \$1,161,778,272.41 that NTIA allocated to Pennsylvania?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 44. Will you commit to preserving the \$334,614,151.70 that NTIA allocated to Puerto Rico?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 45. Will you commit to preserving the \$108,718,820.75 that NTIA allocated to Rhode Island?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 46. Will you commit to preserving the \$551,535,983.05 that NTIA allocated to South Carolina?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 47. Will you commit to preserving the \$207,227,523.92 that NTIA allocated to South Dakota?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 48. Will you commit to preserving the \$813,319,680.22 that NTIA allocated to Tennessee?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 49. Will you commit to preserving the \$3,312,616,455.45 that NTIA allocated to Texas?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 50. Will you commit to preserving the \$27,103,240.86 that NTIA allocated to the U.S. Virgin Islands?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 51. Will you commit to preserving the \$317,399,741.54 that NTIA allocated to Utah?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 52. Will you commit to preserving the \$228,913,019.08 that NTIA allocated to Vermont?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 53. Will you commit to preserving the \$1,481,489,572.87 that NTIA allocated to Virginia?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 54. Will you commit to preserving the \$1,210,800,969.85 that NTIA allocated to West Virginia?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 55. Will you commit to preserving the \$1,055,823,573.71 that NTIA allocated to Wisconsin?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 56. Will you commit to preserving the \$347,877,921.27 that NTIA allocated to Wyoming?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

BEAD technology requirements. While the BEAD statute allows states flexibility to serve extremely high-cost locations with alternative technology, the statute requires that the states "prioritize funding" for "priority broadband projects." The statute defines "priority broadband projects" as those that, among other things, "ensure that the network built by the project can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses; and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services." At your confirmation hearing, Chair Cruz asserted that the BEAD program was intended to be tech neutral. In making this argument, however, Chair Cruz cited language from the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (the definition of a "Covered broadband project" as defined in Section 1705(a)(4) of Title 47 of the U.S. Code), which is not part of the BEAD program.

Question 1. Do you believe that low earth orbit (LEO) offerings that are available to consumers today "can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses; and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services?"

Answer. If confirmed, I will consult with NTIA's engineers and attorneys to determine which specific products, services, and technologies meet the criteria in the law for "priority broadband project" per the IIJA.

Question 2. Do you believe that a state which purchases service from a LEO satellite broadband provider is using BEAD funds to pay for "a network built by the project?"

Answer. If confirmed, I will consult with NTIA's engineers and attorneys to determine which specific products, services, and technologies meet the criteria in the law for "priority broadband project" per the IIJA.

Question 3. Do you agree that the definition of a "Covered broadband project" as defined in Section 1705(a)(4) of Title 47 of the U.S. Code applies to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, and is not relevant to the question of tech neutrality in the BEAD program?

Answer. While this particular definition applies to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, the BEAD program contains similar technology-neutral criteria to define "priority broadband project," "unserved location," and "underserved location," and in defining minimum service requirements to receive a subgrant.

BEAD BABA requirements. The IIJA included the Build America Buy America Act (BABA) says that when the government provides money for building things like roads and bridges, the materials used to build them should be made in the United States. This means things like iron, steel, products made in factories, and materials for construction need to come from the U.S. NTIA issued a partial waiver for BABA for the BEAD program that required that the vast majority of components used in the construction of BEAD funded networks be made in the United States.

Question 1. Do you believe it is important that BEAD funds should support U.S. manufacturing and U.S. jobs?

Answer. Yes.

Question 2. Do you intend to change or modify the BEAD BABA waiver?

Answer. If confirmed, I will do everything I can to support American workers, manufacturers, businesses, consumers, and taxpayers to deploy broadband expeditiously. I commit to looking into this issue if confirmed and I look forward to supporting the twin goals of speedy broadband deployment and an American manufacturing renaissance.

Question 3. Are you concerned that changes to the BEAD program, such as by reducing the amount of fiber deployed, could negatively impact investments made by U.S. companies in domestic manufacturing to support the program?

Answer. If confirmed, I will do everything I can to support American workers, manufacturers, businesses, consumers, and taxpayers to deploy broadband expeditiously. I commit to looking into this issue if confirmed and I look forward to supporting the twin goals of speedy broadband deployment and an American manufacturing renaissance.

Question 4. Are you concerned that changes to the BEAD program, such as by reducing the amount of fiber deployed, could result in job losses or workforce reductions for U.S. companies that made investments in domestic manufacturing to support the program?

Answer. If confirmed, I will do everything I can to support American workers, manufacturers, businesses, consumers, and taxpayers to deploy broadband expeditiously. I commit to looking into this issue if confirmed and I look forward to supporting the twin goals of speedy broadband deployment and an American manufacturing renaissance.

Secretary Lutnick and BEAD Commitments. During his confirmation hearing before this Committee, now-Secretary Lutnick repeatedly failed to commit not to claw back funding for infrastructure programs under NTIA's jurisdiction, particularly the BEAD program. Now confirmed in that role, Secretary Lutnick has made alarming statements indicating he intends to overhaul the program and potentially delay states' work to connect homes to high-speed internet.

Question 1. Will you commit not to claw back funding for NTIA infrastructure programs, such as BEAD?

Answer. Connecting every American to broadband is my top priority, and I support using every dollar allocated in the BEAD program to doing just that. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA staff to expedite the BEAD program and get funding to the states, consistent with the law.

Question 2. If Secretary Lutnick's ongoing "review" of the BEAD program results in allocated funding being clawed back, will you oppose such efforts, if confirmed?

Answer. Connecting every American to broadband is my top priority, and I support using every dollar allocated in the BEAD program to doing just that. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA staff to expedite the BEAD program and get allocated funding to the states, consistent with the law.

Question 3. Have you discussed the "review" of the BEAD program with Secretary Lutnick? If so, please detail the nature of these conversations and when they took place.

Answer. No.

Secretary Lutnick and Congressional Testimony. During his confirmation hearing, now-Secretary Lutnick testified that he would not support the dismantling of the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA). Despite this clear testimony, the DOC, under Secretary Lutnick's leadership, appears to be actively dismantling the MBDA.

Question 1. Will you adhere to the commitments and statements you make to this Committee regarding the fulfillment of your duties and responsibilities in this post, if confirmed?

Answer. Yes.

Question 2. During your hearing, you testified that you would "follow the law." Do you agree that providing untruthful testimony to Congress violates the law?

Answer. Yes.

Secretary Lutnick and Tesla. During an appearance on "Jesse Watters Primetime" on March 19, 2025, Secretary Lutnick urged people to "buy Tesla" stock and said, "anybody that doesn't buy a Tesla robot is going to be silly." As you know, Federal officers are generally prohibited from using their public office for the endorsement of any product, service, or enterprise. Federal officers are also generally prohibited from using their position to imply the government sanctions or endorses another individual's personal activities.

Question 1. Do you think Secretary's Lutnick's comments urging people to purchase Tesla stock or a Tesla product were appropriate?

Answer. I am not familiar with Secretary Lutnick's comments, and I look forward to performing the responsibilities of NTIA administrator if I am fortunate enough to be confirmed.

Question 2. If confirmed, will you commit to not use your public office to promote or otherwise endorse Elon Musk's products or services, such as Starlink, or the products or services of any other Trump Administration official?

Answer. Yes.

Tribal Connectivity. NTIA oversees the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, which Congress appropriated \$3 billion to support Tribal governments for deployment projects, telehealth, and online education opportunities. Roughly \$1 billion in funding for this program is currently frozen.

Question 1. Yes or no, will you commit to completing the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program as it currently exists?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program.

Question 2. Yes or no, will you continue to proceed with Round 2 of the Program, which is already in progress, and allow it to continue?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program.

Broadband Infrastructure and Tribal Coordination. Through the broadband deployment projects it oversees, NTIA must prioritize strong coordination with Tribal communities in order to ensure that locations located on Tribal lands are connected.

Question 1. Yes or no, do you agree that the Federal government must recognize Tribal sovereignty?

Answer. I agree with your statement on the importance of coordination with Tribal communities. If confirmed, I would not be in a position to speak for the entire Federal government on the broad topic of Tribal sovereignty.

Question 2. Yes or no, do you agree that it is the role of the Federal government, and in particular NTIA, to coordinate with Tribal governments on matters of broadband deployment that impacts Tribal lands and families?

Answer. Yes, to the extent the coordination involves NTIA responsibilities.

Question 3. Yes or no, will you commit to upholding requirements for states and Internet service providers participating in BEAD to consult with Tribal governments on broadband deployment to locations on Tribal lands?

Answer. I commit to upholding statutory requirements for NTIA with respect to Tribal governments and Tribal lands.

Question 4. Yes or no, will you continue to abide by the NTIA-FCC-Department of the Interior Tribal Spectrum memorandum of understanding (MOU)?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to reviewing this matter, and upholding NTIA's statutory requirements.

Middle Mile Infrastructure Program. To date, NTIA has awarded nearly \$980 million across 40 states and territories through the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program. This Program funds projects to deploy future-proof fiber over nearly 12,500 miles, connecting over 7,000 anchor institutions.

Question 1. Will you commit to completing the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program as it currently exists?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program.

Question 2. Will you commit to working expeditiously to ensure that funded projects are able to proceed to deploy fiber across the country?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program.

Innovation Fund. Authorized under the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act and funded through the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022, the Public Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Fund is a 10-year, \$1.5 billion grant program will help drive wireless innovation, foster competition, and strengthen supply chain resilience. Around \$814 million remains unobligated. President Trump has recently called to roll back the CHIPS and Science Act, which funded this program.

Question 1. Do you support the current funding opportunities announced and underway?

Answer. I will uphold the law as enacted.

Question 2. Will you commit to implementing these programs and to complete open funding rounds?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Public Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Fund.

National Spectrum Strategy. In November 2023, the Biden Administration released the National Spectrum Strategy (NSS) that identifies over 2,700 megahertz of spectrum across five bands for study to determine the possibility of new, commercial uses. The NSS includes over 1,600 megahertz of midband spectrum, a range in high demand for next-generation wireless services.

In the 118th Congress I led the effort to codify the NSS and a MOU between the FCC and NTIA on spectrum coordination—the Spectrum and National Security Act. The final version of this legislation reflected a negotiated agreement between the DOC, DoD, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff that preserved our national security, protected Federal incumbents, and advanced studies which would create a sustainable spectrum pipeline.

Question 1. Do you believe that the United States needs a national spectrum strategy?

Answer. Yes.

Question 2. Will you stand by the negotiated agreement between the DOC, DoD, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff?

Answer. I was not part of the negotiated agreement between the DOC, DoD, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. However, if confirmed, I commit to reviewing it and obtain any classified briefings necessary for purposes of advising the Trump administration on this negotiated agreement among Biden administration officials.

Question 3. What changes do you anticipate making to either the NSS or MOU between the FCC and NTIA?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to review both the NSS and MOU and get any needed classified briefing to determine if there should be any modification to agreements and strategy documents negotiated by the Biden administration.

Question 4. Will you commit to adhering to the Memorandum on Modernizing United States Spectrum Policy and establishing a national spectrum strategy?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements. As I testified, spectrum will be a top priority of mine.

Spectrum Pipeline Act. Ms. Roth, Chair Cruz introduced the Spectrum Pipeline Act last year, which would have required NTIA to identify 2500 megahertz of Federal spectrum for reallocation and auction. I understand you worked on this bill.

That bill did not require that national security or public safety be protected, nor did it require that any studies occur before the spectrum be auctioned.

Question 1. Can you elaborate on why you believe requiring this spectrum reallocation without the results of any studies does not risk U.S. national security interests?

Answer. I support protecting national security and public safety. If enacted, the Spectrum Pipeline Act would require NTIA to identify a certain quantity of spectrum for reallocation. In order to make this identification, consistent with current practice, NTIA would first conduct studies and consult with other Federal agencies to protect their critical missions.

International Spectrum Leadership. NTIA is tasked with representing the United States' spectrum interests internationally. We have seen China's growth in spectrum use not only threaten the U.S. economically, but China also raises national security concerns. U.S. representation at the International Telecommunications Union and World Radio Conference are important fora to advance American interests in spectrum management and combat national security threats from China.

Question 1. Will you commit to representing U.S. spectrum interests on the international stage to address concerns about China's spectrum use?

Answer. Yes.

Question 2. Do you support a modernized approach on Federal spectrum policy that protects our communications networks against foreign adversaries?

Answer. Yes.

FirstNet. Congress established FirstNet as an independent authority within NTIA, which was tasked with managing and overseeing the implementation and

execution of agreements to build, deploy, and operate a new nationwide broadband network dedicated for public safety use.

FirstNet's statutory authority to operate expires in 2027 and will be a question for Congress and this Committee to consider.

Question 1. How do you view the role of NTIA in managing and overseeing the FirstNet Authority?

Answer. FirstNet is overseen by a board and has a unique position within the Department of Commerce. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that FirstNet delivers on the promise of enhancing public safety communications and is subject to appropriate oversight.

Question 2. If confirmed, how will you address recommendations from the Inspector General contained in three audit reports and one management alert released in 2024?

Answer. I take Inspector General recommendations seriously, and I look forward to reviewing those pertaining to FirstNet if confirmed.

Question 3. If confirmed, would you commit to brief Committee members about the FirstNet contract and provisions, so that the Committee can better understand the relationship between AT&T and FirstNet in advance of the expiration of FirstNet authorization in 2027?

Answer. Yes.

Spectrum Interference. At the March 27, 2025, Commerce Committee hearing with the National Transportation Safety Board, we heard that the Secret Service and U.S. Navy operated a spectrum jamming system that interfered with the terrain avoidance systems on aircraft landing at DCA. Several aircraft that were jammed received false warnings to take emergency action while landing—putting more people at risk.

Question 1. How would you ensure that Federal agencies properly coordinate to prevent this kind of extremely dangerous activity from happening in the future? What specific steps would take to address this issue?

Answer. Coordination among Federal agencies on the use of spectrum is critical for public safety. If confirmed, I will get briefings on this event that Chairman Cruz raised, and that the Acting FAA administrator confirmed, and will work with other Federal agencies to coordinate Federal spectrum use, consistent with NTIA's statutory role.

Question 2. You have advocated for making vast amounts of Federal spectrum available for private sector use. How can we be sure that the Federal government can coordinate these kinds of complex activities with the private sector when it seems like this Administration is already struggling to coordinate within the government?

Answer. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the FCC and other Federal agencies to coordinate Federal and non-federal use of spectrum, consistent with NTIA's statutory role. I will work to not only maintain but, where possible, improve NTIA's coordinating relationship with all Federal agencies to protect critical Federal missions.

Question 3. If confirmed, will you commit to brief this Committee on the jamming incidents at DCA and any other jamming activity near U.S. airports or that would put the public at risk?

Answer. Yes, if confirmed I will get briefings on this event and will brief the Committee on what I learn.

Question 4. Do you believe that the FCC should have taken into account concerns about aviation safety from the FAA regarding 5G interference to airplane altimeters as part of the C-Band auction? Going forward how would you prevent a similar situations from occurring that could put aviation safety, national security, or public safety at risk?

Answer. I agree that the FCC should take into account all harmful interference concerns presented, including those about aviation safety, before making a decision. If confirmed, I will uphold NTIA's statutory role in representing the view of the Executive Branch on spectrum matters before the FCC, including by maintaining clear and frequent channels of communication with the FCC.

Question 5. What role do you believe NTIA has in coordinating with the FCC on spectrum related items before the Commission that involves commercial spectrum, but where there is a Federal interest or equity? What do you think the FCC's responsibility is to take NTIA's concerns into account in these proceedings?

Answer. NTIA is responsible for communicating the position of Executive Branch agencies on spectrum matters before the FCC. The FCC is responsible for managing and licensing non-federal spectrum, consistent with its statutory requirements.

Conflicts of Interest—Starlink. Elon Musk is the founder and CEO of Starlink and the richest man in the world. He is also playing a leading role in the Trump White House and the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). I have serious concerns about the alarming conflicts of interest that appear to be mounting between Mr. Musk and the Trump Administration.

Question 1. Ms. Roth, you are a lawyer. Do you agree there would be at least the appearance of a conflict of interest if the DOC changed the BEAD program and additional funds were directed to Musk's Starlink as a result?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to act impartially in carrying out the BEAD program, consistent with the IIJA as enacted.

Question 2. If confirmed, what specific actions above and beyond the minimum requirements will you take to give Americans confidence there are no conflicts of interest in the BEAD program and Musk's Starlink?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to acting impartially in carrying out the BEAD program, consistent with the IIJA as enacted.

Question 3. Do you think it's appropriate to consign hardworking families in rural and Tribal communities to worse service that is more expensive, while Mr. Musk benefits financially?

Answer. No, this would be a bad outcome. If confirmed, I will work to deliver the best broadband service possible to all Americans, consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 4. Have you ever met, been on a call, or otherwise interacted with Elon Musk? If so, please detail each such instance, including the date and topic of the engagement.

Answer. No.

Question 5. Have you ever discussed Elon Musk's perspective on the BEAD program with anyone associated with SpaceX or the Trump Administration? If so, please detail each such instance, including the date, individuals involved, and perspectives conveyed.

Answer. As the telecommunications policy director for Chairman Cruz on the Senate Commerce Committee, I have taken meetings with numerous stakeholders, including SpaceX, on the implementation of the BEAD program. In the course of those meetings, Mr. Musk's perspective on the BEAD program was never discussed.

Tariffs and Effect on BEAD. President Trump's tariffs are driving up the cost of living for consumers and causing uncertainty for American businesses. As you know, communications service providers depend on a global supply chain for their network components. A recent Price Waterhouse Coopers study found that proposed tariffs could raise costs in the telecommunications and technology sectors by \$126 billion.

Question 1. Yes or no. Do you agree that this administration's proposed tariffs will increase the cost to deploy these networks as well increase the cost consumers will pay for high-speed internet?

Answer. I am committed to carrying out the BEAD program in an expeditious, efficient, and effective manner. As I am the NTIA nominee and not being considered for a Senate-confirmed position on trade policy, I am not in a position to speculate on this issue.

Question 2. If confirmed, you would be the President's principal advisor on telecommunications policy. How would you advise the President about this important issue?

Answer. I would want to confer with experts at NTIA before advising the President on this issue.

Digital Equity Grants. Congress intended to not only establish a once-in-a-generation investment in broadband infrastructure, but also to ensure individuals and communities have the skills necessary to take advantage of the digital opportunities created by high-speed Internet connectivity. One example is how the State of Washington is developing a cybersecurity literacy program to ensure Washingtonians have the necessary skills to protect themselves from cyber criminals.

Question 1. Will you commit to fully and swiftly implementing the Digital Equity Act and its focus on all of the core targets identified in the statute, including rural Americans, seniors, and veterans?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Digital Equity Act.

Question 2. Can you commit not to leave any of the statutory "covered populations" outlined in the Digital Equity Act behind and implement the Act fully, as intended by Congress?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Digital Equity Act.

Question 1. If the president ordered you to do something illegal, would you refuse?

Answer. I would not violate the law, and I do not believe the president would ever ask me to do so.

Question 2. Do you believe the Executive Branch must comply with lawful court orders?

Answer. Yes.

Department of Government Efficiency. In March 2016, you wrote an article titled, "How the FCC Betrayed America's Faith in the Rule of Law" in which you asserted: "We Americans generally have faith that our government operates according to legal authority and predictable rules. If a government-authorized camera records our car exceeding a speed limit, we pay the penalty because we have faith that proper procedures were followed. Our faith is tested when a government agency is found to have operated outside of the rule of law." A Federal court has ruled that DOGE likely acted in violation of the U.S. Constitution "in multiple ways."

Question 1. Given the views expressed in your March 2016 article and the Federal court ruling that DOGE is likely violating the U.S. Constitution, do you agree that Americans should not have faith in the actions taken by DOGE? Why or why not?

Answer. I have been nominated to NTIA and have been focused on NTIA's mission and responsibilities, not the work of DOGE.

Question 2. If confirmed, will you permit DOGE to access to the NTIA's records, systems, and data, including those related to the BEAD program?

Answer. If confirmed, I will comply with all records, systems, and data requirements, including those related to the BEAD program.

Question 3. If DOGE recommended a reduction-in-force at NTIA, would you refuse to carry one out, if confirmed?

Answer. NTIA has many talented career staff, some of whom I've had the privilege to work with. As I have not yet been confirmed, it would be inappropriate for me to opine on the staffing needs of the agency.

Independent Agencies. In the same March 2016 article, you also were critical of President Obama, claiming he had "undermined any pretense of independence at the FCC" when he posted a speech on YouTube discussing the regulation of broadband service providers. You also asserted "[i]t is incumbent on our government to do better in following basic administrative law and affirming the autonomy of independent agencies."

Question 1. Given these past statements, aren't you concerned by the Trump Administration's unprecedented actions to undermine independent agencies like the FCC? If not, please explain why your position has changed since March 2016.

Answer. I have been nominated to NTIA, which is part of the Executive Branch and not an independent agency. As such, I have been focused on NTIA's mission and responsibilities, not those of the FCC.

First Amendment. You worked at the FCC as a legal advisor to Commissioner Mike O'Rielly. As you know, his nomination was withdrawn by President Trump in August 2020, five days after he gave a speech to the Media Institute, in which he said: "The First Amendment protects us from limits on speech imposed by the government—not private actors—and we should all reject demands, in the name of the First Amendment, for private actors to curate or publish speech in a certain way. Like it or not, the First Amendment's protections apply to corporate entities, especially when they engage in editorial decision making. I shudder to think of a day in which the Fairness Doctrine could be reincarnated for the Internet, especially at the ironic behest of so-called free speech 'defenders.' It is time to stop allowing purveyors of First Amendment gibberish to claim they support more speech, when their actions make clear that they would actually curtail it through government action. These individuals demean and denigrate the values of our Constitution and must be held accountable for their doublespeak and dishonesty. This institution and its members have long been unwavering in defending the First Amendment, and it is the duty of each of us to continue to uphold this precious protection."

Question 1. Do you agree with Commissioner O’Rielly’s statement about what the First Amendment means?

Answer. I support upholding the First Amendment. I agree that corporate entities have First Amendment rights, the extent and breadth of which depends on the context.

Border Gateway Protocol. Ms. Roth, the Office of the National Cyber Director released the Roadmap to Enhancing Internet Routing Security in September of 2024. Among the recommendations in the report were enhancements to Internet routing security and in particular, enhancements to the Border Gateway Protocol (BGP).

Question 1. Ms. Roth, if confirmed would you commit to working with the inter-agency to enhance Internet routing security, and addressing vulnerabilities to BGP?

Answer. If confirmed, I look forward to studying the roadmap you reference and consulting with NTIA’s career staff on addressing such vulnerabilities.

Question 2. Ms. Roth, do you think it’s important for Federal agencies to use Route Origin Authorizations (ROA)? Do you think commercial websites should use ROAs? Please explain the importance of ROAs in preventing BGP hijacking.

Answer. If confirmed, I look forward to studying this issue closely and consulting with NTIA’s career staff on this topic.

Management Experience. Ms. Roth, NTIA is a large agency with complex programs. A key part of the position to which you are nominated is being a leader and convener who builds consensus among diverse viewpoints. I’d like to hear a bit more about your relevant management experience.

Question 1. Please detail an example of a complex project you managed successfully and explain how that experience positions you to succeed leading NTIA, if confirmed.

Answer. Managing a household of seven and raising five young children while working full-time in a high-pressure position has been a complex project. It has also taught me about managing different personalities and needs, which I believe will serve me well in leading NTIA if confirmed. In the government context, I am also accustomed to working on complex projects and building consensus among diverse viewpoints. For example, I manage staff on a daily basis as the head of telecommunications policy for the Majority. And at the Federal Communications Commission, I worked in the front office of the Wireline Competition Bureau and was responsible for ensuring career staff, including attorneys, economists, and engineers, as well as staff in the commissioners’ offices could all share their perspective and agree on how to resolve difficult issues.

Question 2. Please provide an example where you built consensus among diverse viewpoints to achieve a beneficial outcome.

Answer. To pass the Blunt-Wyden Low Power Protection Act (PL 117–344), I worked to build consensus among diverse viewpoints of stakeholders in the telecom industry that have not traditionally been aligned. These efforts paid off, as the bill was signed into law in January 2023.

Question 3. What’s the largest team you have managed? How many people reported to you?

Answer. As Chairman Cruz’s Policy Director for Telecommunications on Senate Commerce, I manage a team of five staff. As a legal advisor in the Wireline Competition Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission, I was responsible for building consensus and ensuring timely delivery of work across 155 full-time employees.

Question 4. Have you ever hired someone? If so, how many people?

Answer. Yes. In my career on the Hill, I have been involved in the hiring decisions for numerous persons.

Question 5. Have you ever fired someone? If so, how many people?

Answer. Fortunately, I have never needed to fire anyone.

Cyber Security. Ms. Roth, the United States has been under increasing cyber-attacks by hostile foreign powers, notably China and Russia. Last year, Chinese hackers as part of the Salt Typhoon attack, hacked into U.S. telecom networks and monitored phone calls and text messages, targeting prominent figures including J.D. Vance.

Question 1. If confirmed you will be the President’s lead advisor on telecommunications policy. What is NTIA’s role in mitigating attacks like Salt Typhoon, and what should NTIA do to help prevent future attacks?

Answer. Salt Typhoon was a massive penetration of our country's communications networks, and it is important to plug any vulnerabilities to prevent future attacks. Although NTIA does not have regulatory authority, it can play a key role in policy development, advocacy, and information sharing with respect to cybersecurity. NTIA can also help mitigate future attacks through its work on supply chain security and working with other agencies that develop cybersecurity standards and best practices.

Question 2. What steps can U.S. telecommunication providers take to harden their networks to make them more resistant to cyber-attacks in the future?

Answer. Salt Typhoon was a massive penetration of our country's communications networks, and it is important to plug any vulnerabilities to prevent future attacks. If confirmed, I look forward to working with NTIA's staff and other Federal agencies to develop and promote standards and best practices for cybersecurity.

Question 3. How can NTIA enable the use of non-deployment funds from the BEAD program, funds from the Digital Equity program capacity and competitive programs, and the Tribal Broadband Connectivity program to enhance cyber security skills to make our companies and communities more resistant and resilient to these types of attacks?

Answer. If confirmed, I look forward to consulting with NTIA's career staff to determine what authorities NTIA has under the law to promote cybersecurity through these programs.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. BRIAN SCHATZ TO
ARIELLE ROTH

The Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program ("Middle Mile") is enabling Hawaii to expand broadband infrastructure between islands and across the state. The uninterrupted continuation of projects funded by Middle Mile is critical to enhancing support for critical infrastructure sectors—including defense, transportation, energy, and telecommunications, among others—on time and efficiently.

Question 1. Will you commit to continued support for the Middle Mile program, including ensuring the timely distribution of funds and communications to project sponsors?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program.

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program represents a historic investment in broadband access, including for Hawaii, which will see a total of \$149.5 million under this program. Earlier this month, Department of Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick announced that the agency will review the BEAD program with the intention of potentially reforming certain requirements.

Question 2. What changes do you believe need to be made to the BEAD program under your leadership?

Question 3. What metrics will you apply to assess the effectiveness of the BEAD program?

Question 4. Will you commit to ensuring that any potential modifications to the BEAD program will not impact state planning work, including forcing states to redo work that has already been completed at this stage?

Question 5. Will you commit to ensuring that potential modifications to the BEAD program will not delay state project timelines?

Answer. Connecting every American to broadband is my top priority. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA staff to expedite the BEAD program, get funding to the states, and expand broadband buildout, consistent with the law. The best metric of BEAD's effectiveness is its record of expeditiously increasing broadband access in unserved communities. If confirmed, I look forward to working with NTIA's career staff and state broadband offices to cut red tape and unnecessary bureaucracy, to avoid further delays and minimize work for states, consistent with the law.

In Department of Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick's announcement regarding review of the BEAD program, he stated the agency's interest in cutting "... government red tape that slows down infrastructure construction." To that end, NTIA's waiver authority could be a tool used in addressing the streamlining of certain approvals.

Question 6. How do you view the NTIA's waiver authority, and in what circumstances would you feel it is appropriate to exercise this authority with regard to the BEAD program?

Answer. I agree that issuing waivers where appropriate can be a tool in streamlining the BEAD program and speeding the deployment of broadband to Americans—the ultimate goal of the program. Although the appropriate circumstances for issuing a waiver depends on the specific context, as a general matter, I would look favorably on waivers that would speed the deployment of broadband consistent with the law. If confirmed, I look forward to consulting with NTIA's career staff and legal counsel on this issue.

At the state level, we understand that some documentation requirements could have an opportunity for streamlining. For example, deployment requirements related to Letters of Credit for contractors may not be appropriate in all situations, and updated guidance along these lines could be helpful to increase the speed of deployment and potentially reduce costs. For example, Letters of Credit may not always be most effective in ensuring security due to funding being reimbursable rather than provided in advance, and can make it harder for smaller companies to compete.

Question 7. Will you commit to working with states to address and integrate feedback for Letter of Credit guidance?

Yes, I look forward to working with states on this issue if confirmed.

It is critical that the United States continues to uphold its trust responsibility to Tribal and Native communities.

Question 8. Please provide a description of your understanding of the Federal trust responsibility to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, and how that necessitates continuance of programs that directly and indirectly serve these communities.

Question 9. As NTIA Director, will you commit to upholding this trust responsibility?

Question 10. If confirmed, will you commit to maintaining the Tribal Consent requirements under the BEAD program as a necessary condition of state awards if projects implicate Tribal lands?

Question 11. Will you commit to maintaining the Tribal Advisory Committee at NTIA?

Answer. I commit to upholding statutory requirements for NTIA with respect to Tribal and Native communities and the United States' trust responsibilities. I welcome the opportunity to work with your office on the issue of NTIA's trust responsibility to Tribal and Native communities, so I can learn more about these issues. If confirmed, I commit to working with NTIA's staff on issues regarding the Tribal Advisory Committee and do not intend or plan to dissolve the committee.

Many Tribes awarded 2.5 GHz spectra under the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rural priority window over 4 years ago are under tight buildout and service deadlines that must be met to keep these licenses. NTIA's TBCP Round 2 awards are one of the sole sources of funds directly available to Tribes to build the networks and services needed to meet these deadlines and close the digital divide. I am concerned that Tribes could lose these licenses if any awards you will oversee are delayed or clawed back.

Question 12. Will you commit to getting TBCP Round 2 awards out the door and prevent the fraud, waste, and abuse that will certainly happen if these awards are delayed?

Question 13. Will you commit to proactively engaging with the FCC to make the connection between these two programs and ensuring that timelines for TBCP Round 2 funds do not negatively impact corresponding timelines for recipients under the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Program?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, and coordinating with the FCC in a timely manner.

On December 5, 2024, the Department of Commerce Office of the Inspector General released a report which included 11 recommendations to NTIA for improving FirstNet Authority's management of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network. At the time, NTIA had concurred with all 11 recommendations.

Question 14. Will you commit to the expeditious and complete implementation of the 11 recommendations outlined in the report?

Question 15. Will you commit to ensuring that FirstNet continues its progress toward ensuring that the unique disaster planning needs of non-contiguous states, including Hawaii, are addressed?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with the Inspector General to ensure that FirstNet is subject to appropriate oversight and proper management. I will also work to ensure FirstNet delivers on the promise of enhancing public safety communications throughout the country, including in non-contiguous states like Hawaii.

The NTIA played a critical role to work with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to ensure their continued use of the 24 GHz band to monitor water vapor. Simply put, this band allows observers like NOAA, NASA, and their contractors to determine the amount of water vapor in the atmosphere—which increases the reliability of weather forecasts.

Question 16. What are your plans to work with NOAA, NASA, and other government agencies to preserve their specific spectrum needs?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with all Federal agencies to ensure that their spectrum needs are addressed. I will work to not only maintain but, where possible, improve NTIA's coordinating relationship with all Federal agencies, including NOAA and NASA, to protect critical Federal missions.

Unlicensed spectrum usage and the availability of Wi-Fi play critical roles in enabling innovation and connectivity.

Question 17. As NTIA Director, how will you factor the value of Wi-Fi when evaluating spectrum management decisions?

Answer. I agree that unlicensed spectrum usage and Wi-Fi play critical roles in enabling innovation and connectivity. However, power levels and licensing rules for commercial spectrum are generally decisions within the FCC's domain, not NTIA's.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. EDWARD MARKEY TO
ARIELLE ROTH

Artificial Intelligence:

Question 1. From AI accountability to data center growth to auditing for trustworthy AI systems, NTIA has been investigating and providing recommendations on some of the most complicated issues to ensure that AI innovation does not come at the expense of our trust, safety, and environment. If confirmed, what are your plans to address issues related to emerging technologies and artificial intelligence?

Answer. AI is becoming an increasingly important part of the Internet economy. While AI has the potential to deliver tremendous benefits to consumers, it also comes with risks. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that we lead the world on AI, and harness AI to promote economic competitiveness, national security, and human flourishing.

Question 2. In September 2024, NTIA released a request for comments on U.S. data center growth to meet the demand from artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies. If confirmed, what is your plan for NTIA to address the electricity demand for U.S. data center growth?

Answer. I agree that AI has resulted in greater demand on data centers. It is unclear to me what, if any, authority NTIA has over electricity demand, but if confirmed, I welcome the opportunity to work with NTIA's staff and your office on this important issue.

Question 3. NTIA recently released a report noting the benefits of open-source AI and has also concluded that the Federal government should invest in monitoring and testing AI for harms. Do you agree with these recommendations?

Answer. I have not had an opportunity to familiarize myself with this report but I look forward to reviewing it and hearing from career staff at NTIA on how they came to their recommendations.

Question 4. In March 2024, NTIA released an extensive report on AI accountability, risk, and trustworthiness. The report provided guidance and multiple recommendations for the Federal government on how to ensure the growth of an artificial intelligence accountability framework and to address risks. Do you support this guidance and these recommendations?

Answer. I have not had an opportunity to familiarize myself with this report but I look forward to reviewing it and hearing from career staff at NTIA on how they came to their guidance and recommendations.

Algorithmic Discrimination:

Question 5. Do you believe that bias and discriminatory artificial intelligence is a problem?

Answer. Yes.

Question 6. If confirmed, what is your plan to address biased and discriminatory artificial intelligence, especially in critical areas such as health care, education, employment, and criminal justice?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that we harness AI to promote human flourishing for all Americans.

Question 7. What guardrails should there be for the Federal government's use of AI tools and other technologies, and what is NTIA's role in the development of such guardrails?

Answer. As I have been nominated to NTIA, I cannot speak to the use of AI tools and technologies across other government agencies. If confirmed, I would consult with the expert staff at NTIA and legal counsel on NTIA's role on this matter.

Question 8. Do you believe that a company has an obligation to test, address, or measure its algorithms before deployment in order to determine whether it discriminates or is biased against protected characteristics?

Answer. This is not an issue that I have previously delved into. If confirmed, I would be honored to work with your office to learn more.

Question 9. Do you believe that a company has an obligation to monitor its algorithms after deployment in order to determine whether it discriminates based on protected characteristics?

Answer. This is not an issue that I have previously delved into. If confirmed, I would be honored to work with your office to learn more.

Question 10. Do you support the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy's Blueprint for an AI Bills of Rights?

Answer. I have not had an opportunity to review the Blueprint but look forward to looking into it.

Closing the Digital Divide:

Question 11. Do you support closing the digital divide for low-income people?

Answer. Yes.

Question 12. Do you support closing the digital divide for elderly individuals?

Answer. Yes.

Question 13. Do you support closing the digital divide for incarcerated individuals?

Answer. Yes.

Question 14. Do you support closing the digital divide for veterans?

Answer. Yes.

Question 15. Do you support closing the digital divide for individuals with disabilities?

Answer. Yes.

Question 16. Do you support closing the digital divide for individuals with a language barrier?

Answer. Yes.

Question 17. Do you support closing the digital divide for individuals who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group?

Answer. Yes.

Question 18. Do you support closing the digital divide for people who primarily reside in a rural area?

Answer. Yes.

Question 19. If confirmed, what is your plan to close the digital divide in our country?

Answer. Congress has directed NTIA to play a role in promoting broadband affordability by administering broadband programs like BEAD. NTIA can also help to reduce unnecessary permitting burdens that can increase the cost of providing broadband and expand commercial spectrum access, which in turn increases both mobile and broadband competition, driving down costs for consumers.

If confirmed, I will work to implement NTIA's broadband funding programs consistent with the law and expand spectrum access consistent with national security and the needs of other Federal agencies.

Question 20. If confirmed, what is your plan to close the digital divide for Indigenous people?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program and other broadband funding programs, and will work to expand spectrum access consistent with national security and the needs of other Federal agencies.

Question 21. If confirmed, what is your plan to close the digital divide for students?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to implement NTIA's broadband funding programs consistent with the law and expand spectrum access consistent with national security and the needs of other Federal agencies.

Digital Equity Act

Question 22. Do you believe that the Digital Equity Act is constitutional?

Answer. Making sure Americans have the resources and skills they need to participate in the digital economy was part of the IIJA and I will follow the law.

If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Digital Equity Act.

I would defer to the Department of Justice on constitutional matters.

Question 23. Will you commit to ensuring the projects already recommended for a Digital Equity Act award can move forward and begin their work to ensure residents in their communities can get and stay connected to the Internet safely?

Answer. Making sure Americans have the resources and skills they need to participate in the digital economy was part of the IIJA and I will follow the law.

Free Speech and Technology:

Question 24. Do you believe it is constitutional to ban children and/or teens from social media?

Answer. I would defer to the Department of Justice on this constitutional matter. As the nominee to head NTIA, this is not an issue that I would see within my remit.

Question 25. Do you believe that a social media platform's algorithmic ranking of content constitutes the speech of the platform?

Answer. I would defer to the Department of Justice on this constitutional matter. As the nominee to head NTIA, this is not an issue that I would see within my remit.

Question 26. Do you believe that a social media platform's content moderation decisions constitute the speech of the platform?

Answer. I would defer to the Department of Justice on this constitutional matter. As the nominee to head NTIA, this is not an issue that I would see within my remit.

Question 27. Do you believe that private communications between employees of the Federal government and social media platforms related to content moderation decisions or rules and the algorithmic ranking of content can violate the rights of the platform's users? If so, please describe the circumstances and/or conditions under which those communications would be unconstitutional?

Answer. I would defer to the Department of Justice on this constitutional matter. As the nominee to head NTIA, this is not an issue that I would see within my remit.

Question 28. Do you believe that formal actions by Federal agencies to investigate the content moderation decisions or rules or algorithmic ranking of content on social media platforms could be unconstitutional? If so, please describe the circumstances and/or conditions under which those actions would be unconstitutional?

Answer. I would defer to the Department of Justice on this constitutional matter. As the nominee to head NTIA, this is not an issue that I would see within my remit.

Question 29. Do you support the repeal of Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act?

Answer. That is a matter for Congress to decide. If confirmed, I will abide by the law.

Question 30. Do you believe that the Federal Communications Commission has authority to issue interpretative guidance or conduct a rulemaking interpreting on Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act?

Answer. This is a question that would be more appropriately addressed to the FCC, not the NTIA nominee.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. GARY PETERS TO ARIELLE ROTH

A key part of NTIA's role is coordinating and advocating on Federal spectrum use. This goes beyond just key national security uses at the Department of Defense—other agencies retain certain bands for public safety applications that must be protected. One such band is 5.9, also known as Auto Safety Spectrum, which is overseen by the Department of Transportation.

This band allows for the deployment of safety technologies including cellular vehicle-to-everything technology that enables collision avoidance, faster emergency response times, school bus alerts, freight efficiency improvement, and more. In 2020,

some of this spectrum was allocated away from these safety purposes, which will reduce roadway safety long term. That can't happen again.

Question 1. If confirmed, will you commit to protecting the remaining auto safety spectrum for roadway safety innovation like cellular vehicle-to-everything technology?

Answer. If confirmed, I pledge to work with all Federal agencies on their use of spectrum, including the Department of Transportation, to protect public safety.

Michigan's High Speed Internet Office, also known as "Mi-Hi," has been one of the most effective state offices in carrying out the BEAD program—beginning from a highly successful mapping and comprehensive challenge process. They are on the cusp of closing their subgrantee process wherein they will identify the companies who will build out broadband connecting every single Michigander to reliable internet.

Question 2. Will you commit to meeting with "Mi-Hi" to understand my state's needs if you are confirmed?

Answer. Yes.

As you know, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law authorized over \$48 billion in total funding for NTIA's programs expanding broadband access. Aside from the BEAD program, Michigan has already been awarded \$61 million through the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program and \$38.7 million in expected funding through the Digital Equity Act. Applicants for the DEA Competitive Grant have submitted strong proposals that will increase economic opportunity in low-income communities—like Human I-T's repurposing of used technology and Life Remodeled's construction of Opportunity Hubs for Detroiters—but the review process has been stalled.

Question 3. If confirmed, will you commit to releasing the full amount of these congressionally-approved funds?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to release congressionally authorized funds to all states, including Michigan, consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. TAMMY BALDWIN TO
ARIELLE ROTH

Question 1. Describe any proactive approach you will take at NTIA to support American workers, manufacturers, and businesses, including through broadband infrastructure implementation?

Answer. If confirmed, I will do everything I can to support American workers, manufacturers, businesses, consumers, and taxpayers to deploy broadband expeditiously. I commit to looking into this issue if confirmed and I look forward to supporting the twin goals of speedy broadband deployment and an American manufacturing renaissance.

Question 2. The Digital Equity Act Program, created in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was established to ensure every American can have the skills and technology needed to participate in today's digital economy. In January 2025, NTIA recommended 65 projects across the country for competitive grant awards, including two for Wisconsin.

The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee was recommended an award of nearly \$10 million to improve accessibility to computers for youth, provide technical training for students, establish adult digital literacy classes, and more. The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee has yet to receive those funds, and my office's attempts to receive more information from NTIA have been stonewalled.

If confirmed, will you commit to ensuring these committed dollars get out the door without additional delay?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to expeditiously release congressionally authorized funds to all states, including Wisconsin, consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. JACKY ROSEN TO
ARIELLE ROTH

Question 1. Digital Equity Competitive Grant: Clark County, Nevada, is poised to receive \$10.7 million through the Digital Equity Act Competitive Grant program for a comprehensive project that will provide critical job-related digital skills training, particularly for underserved communities, youth, and small business owners. This investment will directly translate to economic opportunities for Clark County residents and businesses.

a. Will you commit to preserving and fully implementing programs created under the Digital Equity Act, ensuring that communities like Clark County can continue to benefit from these vital resources that help small businesses and seniors?

b. Would you consider projects that teach seniors digital skills, like how to avoid common scams online, an important use of funds under this program?

c. Would you consider projects that teach small businesses how to set up websites and engage on e-commerce an important use of funds under this program?

d. Would you consider projects that teach AI skills, like how to use AI tools safely and how to spot AI deepfakes, an important use of funds under this program?

Answer. These are all relevant and important skills for seniors, small businesses, and others to develop in the 21st century. I also appreciate your voice and position on this topic given your experience in computer programming. Making sure Americans have the resources and skills they need to participate in the digital economy was part of the IIJA and I will follow the law. If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Digital Equity Act.

Question 2. National Spectrum Strategy Implementation: NTIA is supposed to be the arm of the Executive Branch, that coordinates spectrum for use by the Federal government, including the military. NTIA's work is critical because it seeks to ensure the most efficient use of spectrum for agency needs, and it should work in concert with the Federal Communications Commission to assess whether re-allocating Federal spectrum to non-Federal use is feasible. NTIA, under President Biden, put forth a National Spectrum Strategy (NSS) that sought to develop a "spectrum pipeline to ensure U.S. leadership in advanced and emerging technologies." I am concerned, though, this Administration does not prioritize robust spectrum policy, considering that the interagency process has broken down in recent years, reaching its nadir during the first Trump Administration.

a. If confirmed, how will you advance NTIA's mission of coordinating Federal use of this finite resource and ensure the Federal government speaks with one voice?

b. Will you commit to advancing the work of the NSS and developing a spectrum pipeline?

c. Will you commit to updating this Committee every three months on your progress in supporting efforts to balance spectrum needs and optimize Federal uses?

Answer. I agree that advancing a spectrum pipeline to promote U.S. leadership in advanced and emerging technologies, as intended by the NSS, must remain a key priority for our country. I also agree that this requires a robust and successful interagency coordination process. As mandated in its enabling statute, NTIA is the coordinator of Federal spectrum and is in charge of coordinating the executive branch's position on spectrum issues. If confirmed, I pledge to abide by NTIA's statutory role on spectrum and making Federal spectrum use as efficient as possible, consistent with national security and public safety. Upon confirmation, I will confer with NTIA staff on the status of the agency's spectrum studies. I also pledge to maintain open channels with Congress on NTIA's spectrum work and to update this Committee on the agency's progress on a quarterly basis.

Question 3. NTIA Coordination and Commercial Certainty: Under the previous Trump Administration, we saw NTIA fail to properly coordinate Federal use of spectrum, with the Federal Communications Commission auctioning off multiple bands over the objections of key agencies like the Department of Defense, Federal Aviation Administration, and NASA. The lack of coordination and communication between Federal agencies, the NTIA, and the FCC led to billions in lawsuits, unusable licenses, and delays in deployment of commercial networks.

a. If confirmed, how will you ensure the NTIA coordinates across Federal agencies and works with the FCC to provide certainty to commercial spectrum users that if there is an auction of licenses or current licenses are approved for new uses, the decision has been through a robust consultation process with Federal agencies with impacted equities?

Answer. There should always be a robust coordination process with impacted Federal agencies. As mandated in its enabling statute, NTIA is the coordinator of Federal spectrum and is in charge of communicating the executive branch's position on spectrum issues. If confirmed, I pledge to abide by NTIA's statutory role on spectrum, work closely with other Federal agencies to ensure critical Federal missions are protected, and maintain clear and frequent communications with the FCC in communicating the views of the executive branch.

Question 4. Nevada's Approved BEAD Final Proposal: Over two months ago, NTIA approved Nevada's Final BEAD Proposal, and the NIST grants officer who administers the funding also signed off on the proposal weeks ago.

a. Given that Nevada's Final Proposal has been fully approved, when can we expect Nevada's BEAD funding to be disbursed?

b. Is it the Administration's intention to require states with *approved* final proposals, like Nevada and Louisiana, to *restart* their entire BEAD process, and would you support this?

c. Is it the Administration's intention to make states with *approved* final proposals, like Nevada and Louisiana, *re-bid* or *re-do* their entire selection process, and would you support this?

Answer. As I have not yet been confirmed, I have not been made privy to the Administration's intention on BEAD for states with approved proposals. However, connecting every American to broadband expeditiously is my top priority, and I agree that the Department must move quickly to disburse funding to Nevada, consistent with the law. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA staff to expedite the BEAD program, get funding to the states, and expand broadband buildout, consistent with the law. I look forward to working with NTIA's career staff and state broadband offices to cut red tape and unnecessary bureaucracy, to avoid further delays and minimize work for states, consistent with the law.

Question 5. NTIA Approvals under the IIJA: As you stated in your confirmation hearing, you are committed to following the law. Are you aware of any part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law—which I helped write, along with other members of this Committee—that gives the NTIA the authority to *withdraw* approval for a plan or require a resubmission *AFTER* it has *already* approved the proposal?

Answer. If confirmed and the issue of withdrawing an already approved proposal were to come up, I would consult with legal counsel and NTIA's career staff. I am not currently aware of a specific provision in the IIJA on this point.

Question 6. BEAD Delays under this Administration: Secretary Lutnick has said that the Trump Administration wants to “get rid of the delays” in the BEAD program. And in Nevada, we have providers ready to build tomorrow and can have people connected by the end of the summer, but are waiting for Nevada's funding to be released. Last week, Chairman Cruz, along with 12 Republican members of this Committee sent a letter, calling for moving this program forward “without any more delay caused by unnecessary government interference.” Requiring states to re-bid with new guidance would delay buildout in Nevada, at minimum, another 15–18 months.

a. How does delaying Nevada's BEAD funding and buildout align with the Administration's purported goal to eliminate delays?

b. Across the country, states have collectively spent over \$100 million on planning, working with providers, bidding projects, and selecting final projects. Ms. Roth, would it be FAST or EFFICIENT to require states like Nevada and Louisiana to scrap that work and restart the bidding process under completely different rules?

Answer. It seemingly would not be “fast or efficient” to throw away that work and restart the process from scratch. Connecting every American to broadband expeditiously is my top priority. I understand the frustration with the delay in getting funding to your state. It is unfortunate that the previous Administration spent three years on administrative tasks instead of focusing on getting shovels into the ground. However, I believe the short-term delay that is needed to correct these missteps will enable NTIA to oversee a more efficient, effective broadband loan program in the long run. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick, NTIA staff, and state broadband offices to expedite the BEAD program, get funding to the states, and expand broadband buildout, consistent with the law. I look forward to working with NTIA's career staff and state broadband offices to cut red tape and unnecessary bureaucracy, to avoid further delays and minimize work for states, consistent with the law.

Question 7. Priority Broadband Projects under IIJA: In Nevada, we have an all-of-the-above approach to technology that aligns with the intent of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The statute is tech neutral, in that it prioritizes the necessary technology to meet certain speed and scalability outcomes. Specifically, the statute defines a priority broadband project as one that satisfies quality, reliability, and speed requirements and can easily scale for future connectivity needs and 5G technologies. This is important, because while the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is tech neutral, it also has standards for such technology, and scalability for 5G technology is one of them.

a. Does satellite technology *currently* support the scalability of 5G services?

b. Could satellite broadband services be considered under the statutory definition of a “priority broadband project” under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law?

Answer. Satellite technology is changing fast enough that I would want to consult with NTIA’s engineers before making a determination on its current capabilities. If confirmed, I will consult with NTIA’s engineers and attorneys to determine which specific products, services, and technologies meet the criteria in the law for “priority broadband project” per the IIJA.

Question 8. Cost of Internet: Secretary Lutnick has announced that he is “revamping” BEAD to make it tech neutral—which it already is—and the “lowest cost”. But costs for Elon Musk’s Starlink right now are over \$120 a month, while Internet service providers in Nevada offer higher speeds for less than half of that. What benefits will Americans receive if the NTIA changes the rules for BEAD to give rural areas slower, less reliable Internet that costs consumers *more* money?

Answer. Such a scenario would not be a desirable result. If confirmed, I will work to deliver the best broadband service possible to all Americans, consistent with NTIA’s statutory authority.

Question 9. High Cost Locations: Some in this Administration have questioned why we are building in high cost locations, calling for some sort of cap on the costs of building out broadband to certain locations. Not only would this be misguided and inject uncertainty into the program, but it is in direct contradiction with the purpose of the BEAD program: to close the digital divide. If the private sector could easily build out to these hard-to-serve locations, they would have already. Providing high-speed, reliable broadband to all Americans who have been left behind is the explicit purpose of the law. In Nevada, many of the high cost awards in Nevada were awarded to the sole bidder of that project. Satellite couldn’t serve those areas technologically—and fixed wireless bids often ended up being even more expensive. A national per location cap disregards complex factors that vary state by state and could prevent states from being able to connect 100 percent of unserved locations with the money allocated to the state under the program.

a. Would you support instituting an arbitrary national cap on costs per location?

b. Would you support instituting an arbitrary national cap on costs per location, even if that provider was the sole bidder of that location?

Answer. I do not support taking any arbitrary actions. If confirmed and the issue of a per-location cap were to come up, I would consult with legal counsel, NTIA’s career staff, state broadband offices, industry stakeholders, and this Committee as appropriate. Moreover, a per-location cap, should it come up, would need to account for consideration of high-cost areas, including high-cost Tribal areas.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN TO
ARIELLE ROTH

Question 1. Sec. Lutnick is calling on states to use the lowest cost option when building out broadband under the BEAD Program. Although satellite is cheaper and quicker to deploy in the short-term, it will be more expensive in the long-term. Fiber is considered the gold standard in Internet connection.

Yes or no, do you support deprioritizing fiber in favor of fixed wireless or LEO satellites?

Answer. I support an all-of-the-above solution, including fiber as well as alternative technologies where appropriate. If confirmed, I will work to deliver the best broadband service possible to all Americans, consistent with NTIA’s statutory authority.

a. Are you aware of any small LEO operators that satisfy IIJA’s 100/20 mbps speeds and low latency conditions?

Answer. I am not, but satellite technology is changing fast enough that I would want to consult with NTIA’s engineers before making a determination on its current capabilities. If confirmed, I will consult with NTIA’s engineers and attorneys to determine which specific products, services, and technologies meet these criteria.

Question 2. Earlier this month, Secretary Lutnick put out a statement saying that the Commerce Department is “revamping the BEAD program to take a tech-neutral approach that is rigorously driven by outcomes, so states can provide Internet access for the lowest cost.”

Yes or no, do you support requiring states to overhaul and resubmit their BEAD plans?

a. If yes: How does that comport with your goal of deploying the money “expeditiously”?

Answer. Connecting every American to broadband expeditiously is my top priority. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA staff to expedite the BEAD program, get funding to the states, and expand broadband build-out, consistent with the law. I look forward to working with NTIA's career staff and state broadband offices to cut red tape and unnecessary bureaucracy, to avoid further delays and minimize work for states, consistent with the law.

Question 3. During a June 2024 Federalist Society event you stated, "Instead of prioritizing connecting all Americans who are currently unserved to Broadband, the NTIA has just been preoccupied with attaching all kinds of extra-legal requirements on BEAD, and to be honest, a woke social agenda." What provisions or requirements of BEAD constitute a "woke social agenda"? Please be specific.

Answer. At this panel, I was speaking in my capacity as the telecommunications policy director reflecting the views of Chairman Cruz who has expressed concern around extra-legal BEAD requirements. The concern over unnecessary requirements was notably discussed a few weeks ago by Ezra Klein and Jon Stewart on a podcast and flagged by the prior Administration's own BEAD director. If confirmed, I look forward to working with NTIA's career staff and state broadband offices to cut red tape and unnecessary bureaucracy, to avoid further delays and minimize work for states, consistent with the law.

Question 4. You previously stated that ACP had a failed record in connecting unserved Americans. However, by the time the program ended, more than 23 million households had accessed the ACP, which totals nearly 40 percent of eligible households. There is also strong evidence that the program provided vastly more economic benefits than it cost.

Yes or no, do you stand by your statement that ACP had a "failed record"?

a. If yes, what evidence do you have to back up your statement?

Answer. I was speaking in my capacity as the telecommunications policy director reflecting the views of Chairman Cruz who has documented concerns about ACP's record. Some of those were addressed in the language you offered to reform ACP. I support ensuring that broadband is affordable for low-income Americans. Of course, ensuring that low-income broadband programs are effective and targeted can be challenging, but it is something I am willing to put significant effort into to get right. I would welcome the opportunity to work with your office on this important, bipartisan issue.

Question 5. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 requires Internet service providers participating in the BEAD program to offer a low-cost service option. NTIA gives states flexibility about how they implement the low-cost requirement, with offerings ranging from \$15 a month in New York to up to \$150 in Alaska. Yes or no, do you commit to follow the law and require all BEAD subgrantees to offer at least one low-cost broadband service option, as required under the statute?

Answer. Yes, I commit to following the law.

Question 6. As you know, the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program allocates \$3 billion to support Tribal governments deployment projects, telehealth, and online educational opportunities. The last administration announced several awards at the end of 2024 but \$1 billion remains to be distributed. Will you commit to administer the remaining funds?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program.

Question 7. As Administrator, you have a critical role in ensuring that Federal incumbents are using their spectrum resources efficiently. In some cases, reallocating the spectrum for nonfederal use may not be an option yet there may be opportunities to share spectrum to ensure its maximum benefit for the Federal government and consumers alike. Would you commit to requiring NTIA to publish clear timelines and stakeholder engagement opportunities as part of any spectrum studies aiming to commercialize Federal spectrum?

Answer. As mandated in its enabling statute, NTIA is the coordinator of Federal spectrum and is in charge of coordinating the executive branch's position on spectrum issues. If confirmed, I pledge to abide by NTIA's statutory role on spectrum and making Federal spectrum use as efficient as possible, consistent with national security and public safety. Upon confirmation, I will confer with NTIA staff on the status of the agency's spectrum studies. I also pledge to maintain open channels with stakeholders on NTIA's spectrum work.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. JOHN HICKENLOOPER TO
ARIELLE ROTH

The NTIA is responsible for advocating for Federal agencies in key spectrum policy deliberations. In recent years, certain agency views have been raised to highlight potential impacts to Federal missions as a result of harmful interference to NOAA satellites that help predict weather; impacts to our GPS systems; and after a commercial “C-Band” auction, concerns were raised about impacts to aircraft altimeters which required a voluntary pause for licensees to use new C-Band licenses to preserve aviation safety.

Question 1. With specificity, what instances or scenarios do you consider to be “harmful interference” between Federal agencies and a range of unlicensed users using spectrum? Do you believe past spectrum policy decisions were hurried or created “harmful interference” to Federal missions? Why or why not?

Answer. I have great respect for the engineers at NTIA, the FCC, and the various Federal agencies that rely on spectrum. It would be my top priority to protect national security and public safety in any spectrum decisions I make if confirmed. Harmful interference to critical Federal operations is unacceptable.

One prominent instance of harmful interference between Federal and unlicensed users was an episode in 2009, in which the Federal Aviation Administration became aware of interference to Terminal Doppler Weather Radars that operate in the 5600–5650 MHz band and provide measurements of weather hazards for improved safety of operations in and around airports. According to a *report* written by NTIA with the assistance of FAA engineers, the interference was caused by unlicensed devices operating in the same band. This incident underscores the need for proper coordination between Federal and commercial users.

I look forward to working to protect against harmful interference in any spectrum decisions I make if confirmed.

International standards are key to all forms of emerging technologies—including communications. The upcoming World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC) in 2027 is a key date where global decisions will be made on the future of 6G, space-based communications, and expanding Wi-Fi capabilities.

Question 2. What is your specific plan to help prepare and develop consensus priorities for the United States delegation to pursue at the WRC–27 convening?

Answer. It is critically important for the United States to be prepared for WRC–27, and we need to establish our international policy positions on spectrum as quickly as possible. I believe NTIA has a very important role in that and, if confirmed, will work expeditiously to ensure that the delegation has what it needs to be successful. Central to being prepared for the WRC is convening relevant Federal agencies and stakeholders beforehand so that our country enters the WRC with unified positions.

The State of Colorado has recently finalized its second application window to expand broadband to roughly 171,000 locations. If our State’s Final Proposal is approved by the NTIA, Coloradans will finally see broadband expansion using a diverse mix of technologies, including fiber, fixed wireless, and satellite. With our state’s complex geography, ensuring every household has high-speed connectivity is our North Star.

Question 3. As the Department of Commerce considers reforms to the BEAD Program, will you commit to allowing States to continue with their project planning and award process without unnecessary delay?

Answer. I agree that we should avoid unnecessary delay. Connecting every American to broadband expeditiously is my top priority. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA staff to expedite the BEAD program, get funding to the states, and expand broadband buildout, consistent with the law. I look forward to working with NTIA’s career staff and state broadband offices to cut red tape and unnecessary bureaucracy, to avoid further delays and minimize work for states, consistent with the law.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTION SUBMITTED BY HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER TO
ARIELLE ROTH

Question. Ms. Roth, cybersecurity in our Nation’s broadband networks is such an important part of our digital ecosystem. Additionally, with the rise of AI systems and Internet of Things applications, broadband users will have more potential vectors of attack for bad actors to target.

With the recent Salt Typhoon hack proving the necessity of cybersecurity programs, can you tell me, given the NTIA’s advisory role to the President, your con-

crete plans in your first 100 days if approved for this role, to address safely integrating these emerging technologies into our country's broadband networks?

Answer. Salt Typhoon was a massive penetration of our country's communications networks, and it is important to plug any vulnerabilities to prevent future attacks. If confirmed, I look forward to working with NTIA's staff and other Federal agencies to develop and promote standards and best practices for cybersecurity. Although NTIA does not have regulatory authority, it can play a key role in policy development, advocacy, and information sharing with respect to cybersecurity.

