

FEDERAL BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT TRACKING ACT

FEBRUARY 4, 2026.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GUTHRIE, from the Committee on Energy and Commerce,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1343]

The Committee on Energy and Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1343) to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit to Congress a plan for the Assistant Secretary to track the acceptance, processing, and disposal of certain Form 299s, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

CONTENTS

	Page
Purpose and Summary	1
Background and Need for Legislation	2
Committee Action	2
Committee Votes	3
Oversight Findings and Recommendations	5
New Budget Authority, Entitlement Authority, and Tax Expenditures	5
Congressional Budget Office Estimate	5
Federal Mandates Statement	5
Statement of General Performance Goals and Objectives	5
Duplication of Federal Programs	5
Related Committee and Subcommittee Hearings	5
Committee Cost Estimate	6
Earmark, Limited Tax Benefits, and Limited Tariff Benefits	6
Advisory Committee Statement	6
Applicability to Legislative Branch	6
Section-by-Section Analysis of the Legislation	6
Changes in Existing Law Made by the Bill, as Reported	6

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 1343, the “Federal Broadband Deployment Tracking Act,” introduced on February 13, 2025, was introduced by Representa-

tives Austin Pfluger (R–TX) and Darren Soto (D–FL). It would direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to develop a plan to track the acceptance, processing, and disposal of applications to deploy communications facilities on federal property.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The United States faces a persistent digital divide. According to the Federal Communications Commission, approximately 5.8 million homes and businesses lack access to fixed broadband at 25 Mbps download/3 Mbps upload, while 31 percent of the geographic area of the United States lacks 4G LTE mobile broadband coverage at speeds of 5 Mbps/1 Mbps.¹ A significant amount of these unserved locations are near property owned by the federal government. This property is managed by agencies such as the Department of Interior, Department of Agriculture, and General Services Administration (GSA).

In 2018, Congress directed GSA to develop a common application for federal agencies to use for requests to site communications facilities on federal property.² This common application is the Special Form (SF) 299.³

Federal agencies have historically taken a significant amount of time to review SF–299s, and the process is often opaque to the other parties involved.⁴ Indeed, even though an SF–299 is required for applications, different agencies can require additional information.⁵ Further, agencies are not always clear on what they need or where applications are in the review process. Agencies can go silent “for long stretches of time regarding the status of applications or what else might be needed to deem an application ‘complete,’” followed by “serial requests for additional information that could have been caught earlier or avoided altogether with better guidance and communication upfront.”⁶ This process leads to uncertainty and significant project delays.⁷

COMMITTEE ACTION

On March 5, 2025, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled, “Fixing Biden’s Broadband Blunder.” The Subcommittee received testimony from:

- Grant Spellmeyer, President and CEO, ACA Connects
- Tim Donovan, President and CEO, Competitive Carriers Association
- Greg Hale, CEO, LTC Connect
- Sarah Morris, Former Acting Deputy Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration

On September 18, 2025, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a legislative hearing entitled, “Examining So-

¹FED. COMM’N. COMM’N., *FCC National Broadband Map*, <https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home> (last updated Sept. 3, 2025).

²47 U.S.C. § 1455(b)(3)(A).

³GEN. SERV. ADMIN., Standard Form 299, <https://www.gsa.gov/system/files/SF-299%20OMB%20Control%20Number%200596-0249.pdf>.

⁴*Breaking Barriers: Streamlining Permitting to Expedite Broadband Deployment*, Hearing before the Sub. on Comm’n. and Tech., H. Comm. on Energy and Commerce, 118th Cong. (2023) (“Permitting Hearing”) (Testimony of Michael Saperstein).

⁵*Id.*

⁶See Permitting Hearing (Written Testimony of Michael Romano).

⁷See Permitting Hearing (Written Testimony of Michael Romano at 8).

lutions to Expedite Broadband Permitting.” The Subcommittee received testimony from:

- Jonathan Spalter, President and CEO, USTelecom—The Broadband Association
- Patrick Halley, President and CEO, Wireless Infrastructure Association
- Staci Pies, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and Policy, INCOMPAS
- Drew Garner, Director of Policy Engagement, Benton Institute for Broadband & Society

On November 18, 2025, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology met in open markup session and forwarded H.R. 1343, without amendment, to the full Committee by a voice vote. On December 3, 2025, the full Committee on Energy and Commerce met in open markup session and ordered H.R. 1343, without amendment, favorably reported to the House by a record vote of 49 yeas and 0 nays.

COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII requires the Committee to list the record votes on the motion to report legislation and amendments thereto. The following reflects the record votes taken during the Committee consideration:

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
119TH CONGRESS
ROLL CALL VOTE # 1**

BILL: H.R. 1343, Federal Broadband Deployment Tracking Act

AMENDMENT: Final Passage

DISPOSITION: Agreed to, by a roll call vote of 49 yeas and 0 nays.

REPRESENTATIVE	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT	REPRESENTATIVE	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT
Mr. Guthrie				Mr. Pallone	X		
Mr. Latta	X			Ms. DeGette	X		
Mr. Griffith	X			Ms. Schakowsky	X		
Mr. Bilirakis				Ms. Matsui	X		
Mr. Hudson	X			Ms. Castor	X		
Mr. Carter (GA)	X			Mr. Tonko	X		
Mr. Palmer	X			Ms. Clarke	X		
Mr. Dunn	X			Mr. Ruiz	X		
Mr. Crenshaw	X			Mr. Peters	X		
Mr. Joyce	X			Mrs. Dingell	X		
Mr. Weber	X			Mr. Veasey	X		
Mr. Allen	X			Ms. Kelly			
Mr. Balderson	X			Ms. Barragán	X		
Mr. Fulcher	X			Mr. Soto	X		
Mr. Pfluger	X			Ms. Schrier	X		
Mrs. Harshbarger	X			Ms. Trahan	X		
Mrs. Miller-Meeks				Ms. Fletcher	X		
Mrs. Cammack				Ms. Ocasio-Cortez	X		
Mr. Obernolte	X			Mr. Auchincloss	X		
Mr. James	X			Mr. Carter (LA)	X		
Mr. Bentz	X			Mr. Menendez	X		
Mrs. Houchin	X			Mr. Mullin	X		
Mr. Fry	X			Mr. Landsman	X		
Ms. Lee	X			Ms. McClellan	X		
Mr. Langworthy	X						
Mr. Kean	X						
Mr. Rulli	X						
Mr. Evans	X						
Mr. Goldman	X						
Mrs. Fedorchak	X						

12/03/2025

OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee held a hearing and made findings that are reflected in this report.

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY, ENTITLEMENT AUTHORITY, AND TAX EXPENDITURES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII, the Committee finds that H.R. 1343 would result in no new or increased budget authority, entitlement authority, or tax expenditures or revenues.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII, at the time this report was filed, the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 was not available.

FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this legislation is to expedite broadband deployment by streamlining the permitting process at the federal, state, and local level.

DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII, no provision of H.R. 1343 is known to be duplicative of another Federal program, including any program that was included in a report to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139 or the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

RELATED COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(6) of rule XIII, the following related hearing was used to develop or consider H.R. 1343:

- On March 5, 2025, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled, “Fixing Biden’s Broadband Blunder.” The Subcommittee received testimony from:
 - Grant Spellmeyer, President and CEO, ACA Connects
 - Tim Donovan, President and CEO, Competitive Carriers Association
 - Greg Hale, CEO, LTC Connect
 - Sarah Morris, Former Acting Deputy Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration
- On September 18, 2025, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing on H.R. 1665. The title of the hearing was “Examining Solutions to Expedite Broadband Permitting.” The Subcommittee received testimony from:

- Jonathan Spalter, President and CEO, USTelecom—The Broadband Association
- Patrick Halley, President and CEO, Wireless Infrastructure Association;
- Patrick Halley, President and CEO, Wireless Infrastructure Association; and,
- Drew Garner, Director of Policy Engagement, Benton Institute for Broadband & Society

COMMITTEE COST ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee adopts as its own the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. At the time this report was filed, the estimate was not available.

EARMARK, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, AND LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Pursuant to clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI, the Committee finds that H.R. 1343 contains no earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act were created by this legislation.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

Section 1. Short title

This section designates that the short title may be cited as the “Federal Broadband Deployment Tracking Act.”

Section 2. Plan for Assistant Secretary to track the acceptance, processing, and disposal of certain form 299s

Subsection (a) would direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information (Assistant Secretary) to submit to Congress a plan to track the acceptance, processing, and disposal of each Form 299 for communications use authorization; provide applicants with additional transparency on the status of their Form 299; and how the plan could be implemented expeditiously. The Assistant Secretary would also be required to identify any potential barriers to implementing this plan.

Subsection (b) would define key terms used in H.R. 1343.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

This legislation does not amend any existing Federal statute.