

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4459

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 30, 2026

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

A BILL

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

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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