

amendment No. 3720 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6157, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3731

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3731 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6157, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3735

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3735 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6157, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3751

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3751 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6157, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3763

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3763 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6157, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3793

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3793 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6157, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 3360. A bill to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to improve access to broadband telecommunications services in rural areas, including by encouraging the provision of broadband loans and grants to increase broadband service in emerging harbor projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Broadband Internet for Small Ports Act to help small ports access broadband loans and grants, which will increase internet service in rural coastal communities nationwide.

Nearly a third of Americans lack access to high-speed internet, and there is a considerable digital divide between rural and urban America. Rural communities must be brought up to speed so that all Americans can compete online in a global economy.

In rural coastal areas people congregate near inland and small ports, and these harbors act as hubs for commerce and tourism. This bill recognizes the importance of small ports to their rural economies. This bill will help small ports nationwide get Federal loans and grants and improve their broadband coverage, thereby enabling working-waterfronts to order inventory and coordinate deliveries, access real-time weather updates, and grow economically.

Broadband loan and grant applications submitted to the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utility Service are assigned different levels of priority before they are awarded. This bill recognizes the importance of small ports, and elevates the priority of applications seeking to boost internet capacity. This bill states that broadband loan and grant applications from small ports will be considered equal in priority to applications that are developed with the participation of a nonprofit or philanthropic organization.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3360

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Broadband Internet for Small Ports Act".

SEC. 2. ACCESS TO BROADBAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS.

Section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "loans and" and inserting "grants, loans, and";

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking "LOANS AND" and inserting "GRANTS, LOANS, AND";

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting "make grants and" after "Secretary shall";

(C) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

"(2) PRIORITY.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—In making grants, loans, or loan guarantees under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

"(i) give the highest priority to applications for projects to provide broadband service to unserved rural communities that do not have any residential broadband service;

"(ii) give priority to applications for projects to provide the maximum level of broadband service to the greatest proportion of rural households in the proposed service area identified in the application;

"(iii) give priority to applications for projects to provide rapid and expanded deployment of fixed and mobile broadband on cropland and rangeland within a service territory for use in various applications of precision agriculture;

"(iv) provide equal consideration to all eligible entities, including those that have not

previously received grants, loans, or loan guarantees under paragraph (1); and

"(v) with respect to 2 or more applications that are given the same priority under clause (i), give priority to an application that requests less grant funding than loan funding.

"(B) OTHER.—After giving priority to the applications described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall then give priority to applications—

"(i) for projects to provide broadband service to rural communities—

"(I) with a population of less than 10,000 permanent residents;

"(II) that are experiencing outmigration and have adopted a strategic community investment plan under section 379H(d) that includes considerations for improving and expanding broadband service;

"(III) with a high percentage of low income families or persons (as defined in section 501(b) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471(b))); or

"(IV) that are isolated from other significant population centers; and

"(ii) that were developed with the participation of, and will receive a substantial portion of the funding for the project from, 1 or more stakeholders, including—

"(I) State, local, and tribal governments;

"(II) nonprofit institutions;

"(III) community anchor institutions, such as—

"(aa) public libraries;

"(bb) elementary schools and secondary schools (as defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));

"(cc) institutions of higher education; and

"(dd) health care facilities;

"(IV) private entities; and

"(V) philanthropic organizations.

"(C) EMERGING HARBOR PROJECTS PRIORITY.—In addition to the priority given under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall give equal priority to an application for a project that would increase the availability of broadband service in an emerging harbor project (as defined in section 210(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2238(f))), without regard to whether the application is from an emerging harbor project.

"(D) IDENTIFICATION OF UNSERVED COMMUNITIES.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an application given the highest priority under subparagraph (A)(i), the Secretary shall confirm that each unserved rural community identified in the application is eligible for funding by—

"(I) conferring with and obtaining data from the Chair of the Federal Communications Commission and the Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration with respect to the service level in the service area proposed in the application;

"(II) reviewing any other source that is relevant to service data validation, as determined by the Secretary; and

"(III) performing site-specific testing to verify the unavailability of any residential broadband service in the unserved rural community.

"(ii) ADJUSTMENTS.—Not less often than once every 2 years, the Secretary shall review, and may adjust through notice published in the Federal Register, the unserved communities identified under clause (i)."; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) GRANT AMOUNTS.—

"(A) DEFINITION OF DEVELOPMENT COSTS.—In this paragraph, the term 'development costs' means costs of—

“(i) construction, including labor and materials;

“(ii) project applications; and

“(iii) other development activities, as determined by the Secretary.

“(B) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under this section, the project that is the subject of the grant shall be carried out in a rural area.

“(C) MAXIMUM.—Except as provided in subparagraph (D), the amount of any grant made under this section shall not exceed 50 percent of the development costs of the project for which the grant is provided.

“(D) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY TO ADJUST.—The Secretary may make grants of up to 75 percent of the development costs of the project for which the grant is provided to an eligible entity if the Secretary determines that the project serves—

“(i) an area of rural households described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii); and

“(ii) a rural community described in any of subclauses (I) through (IV) of paragraph (2)(B)(i).”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “loan or” and inserting “grant, loan, or”;

(II) in clause (ii), by striking “a loan application” and inserting “an application”; and

(III) in clause (iii)—

(aa) by striking “service” and inserting “infrastructure”;

(bb) by striking “loan” the first place it appears;

(cc) by striking “3” and inserting “5”; and

(dd) by striking “proceeds from the loan made or guaranteed under this section are” and inserting “assistance under this section is”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) RELATION TO UNIVERSAL SERVICE HIGH-COST SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the Federal Communications Commission to ensure that any grants, loans, or loan guarantees made under this section complement and do not conflict with universal service high-cost support (as defined in section 54.5 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation) provided by the Commission.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(aa) by striking “the proceeds of a loan made or guaranteed” and inserting “assistance”; and

(bb) by striking “for the loan or loan guarantee” and inserting “of the eligible entity”;

(II) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking “15” and inserting “90”; and

(bb) by striking “level of broadband service” and inserting “level of fixed broadband service, whether terrestrial or wireless.”;

(III) in clause (ii), by striking “3” and inserting “2”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

“(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—Clause (i) shall not apply if the applicant is eligible for funding under another title of this Act.”;

(C) in paragraph (3), in subparagraph (A), by striking “loan or” and inserting “grant, loan, or”;

(D) in paragraph (4), by striking “loan or” and inserting “grant, loan, or”;

(E) in paragraph (5)(A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “loan or” and inserting “grant, loan, or”;

(F) in paragraph (6), by striking “loan or” and inserting “grant, loan, or”;

(G) by redesignating paragraph (7) as subparagraph (B) and indenting appropriately;

(H) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) APPLICATION PROCESS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to an applicant of a grant, loan, or loan guarantee under this section feedback and decisions on funding in a timely manner.”;

(I) in paragraph (7)(B) (as so redesignated), by striking “may seek a determination of area eligibility prior to preparing a loan application under this section.” and inserting the following: “may, before preparing an application under this section—

“(i) seek a determination of area eligibility; and

“(ii) submit to the Secretary a proposal for a project, on which the Secretary shall provide feedback regarding how the proposal could be changed to improve the likelihood that the Secretary would approve the application.”;

(J) in paragraph (10)(A), by striking “15” and inserting “30”; and

(K) by adding at the end the following:

“(11) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide eligible entities described in paragraph (1) that are applying for a grant, loan, or loan guarantee for a project described in subsection (c)(2)(A)(i) technical assistance and training—

“(i) to prepare reports and surveys necessary to request grants, loans, and loan guarantees under this section for broadband deployment;

“(ii) to improve management, including financial management, relating to the proposed broadband deployment;

“(iii) to prepare applications for grants, loans, and loan guarantees under this section; or

“(iv) to assist with other areas of need identified by the Secretary.

“(B) FUNDING.—Not less than 3 percent and not more than 5 percent of amounts appropriated to carry out this section for a fiscal year shall be used for technical assistance and training under this paragraph.”;

(4) in subsection (e)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “4-Mbps” and inserting “25-Mbps”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “1-Mbps” and inserting “3-Mbps”;

(5) in subsection (f), by striking “make a loan or loan guarantee” and inserting “provide assistance”;

(6) in subsection (j)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “loan and loan guarantee”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “grants and” after “number of”;

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “loan”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “loans and” and inserting “grants, loans, and”; and

(D) in paragraph (3), by striking “loan”;

(7) by redesignating subsections (k) and (l) as subsections (m) and (n), respectively;

(8) by inserting after subsection (j) the following:

“(k) BROADBAND BUILDOUT DATA.—As a condition of receiving a grant, loan, or loan guarantee under this section, a recipient of assistance shall provide to the Secretary complete, reliable, and precise geolocation information that indicates the location of new broadband service that is being provided or upgraded within the service territory supported by the grant, loan, or loan guarantee not later than 30 days after the earlier of—

“(1) the date of completion of any project milestone established by the Secretary; or

“(2) the date of completion of the project.

“(l) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.—The Secretary may obligate, but not disperse, funds under this Act before the completion of oth-

erwise required environmental, historical, or other types of reviews if the Secretary determines that a subsequent site-specific review shall be adequate and easily accomplished for the location of towers, poles, or other broadband facilities in the service area of the borrower without compromising the project or the required reviews.”;

(9) in subsection (m) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “\$25,000,000” and inserting “\$150,000,000”; and

(ii) by striking “2008 through 2018” and inserting “2019 through 2023”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) set aside at least 1 percent to be used for—

“(I) conducting oversight under this section; and

“(II) implementing accountability measures and related activities authorized under this section.”;

(10) in subsection (n) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking “loan or” and inserting “grant, loan, or”; and

(B) by striking “2018” and inserting “2023”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 610—URGING THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, TERRORIST ATTACKS UPON THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 610

Whereas tens of thousands of pages of documents relating to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks upon the United States remain classified by the Federal Government;

Whereas the Federal Government may properly classify and control access to information in order to protect sources and methods of collecting critical information in defense of the country and the people of the United States;

Whereas the contents of these documents are necessary for a full public understanding of the events and circumstances surrounding the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;

Whereas the decision to maintain the classified status of many of these documents prevents the people of the United States from having access to information about the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, including the involvement of certain foreign governments in the attacks; and

Whereas the people of the United States and the families of the victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks deserve full and public disclosure of the events surrounding the attacks: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) documents related to the events of September 11, 2001, should be declassified to the greatest extent possible; and

(2) the survivors, the families of the victims, and the people of the United States deserve answers about the events and circumstances surrounding the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks upon the United States.