

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 24, 2022

The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairwoman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel:

We write to inquire about the progress to date that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has made over the past four months to implement the Deployment Locations Map, as contained in Section 60105 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA; P.L. 117-58).

Specifically, this section requires the creation of a Deployment Locations Map within 18 months through an FCC-led interagency process to provide insights on the latest progress of broadband infrastructure deployment projects in one place.

This bipartisan measure passed on the Senate floor by a 95 to 0 vote during consideration of the IIJA. The unanimous vote reflects the strong congressional desire to ensure all federal agencies are coordinating on the funding they provide to support broadband infrastructure projects. In this manner, the federal government will be better positioned to avoid redundant network construction and maximize funding dedicated to critical broadband deployment efforts.

As you know, funding is available for broadband deployment projects across several different federal agencies. Each program at these agencies comes with their own objectives and goals to target how we bring more connectivity to all Americans. Some of these programs have detailed maps of where these projects are located and the respective stages of their completion. Some though, have none at all.

Absent a transparent overview of where this federal funding is going, it will be increasingly difficult for federal agencies to distribute resources where they are needed most, and without duplication. This is essential as more funding is invested in closing the digital divide. Additionally, as state and local entities navigate forthcoming broadband funding opportunities, having this information available in a central location will aid in drafting better deployment plans for those applications.

We look forward to your answers on the progress of the Commission's role in creating the Deployment Locations Map, as we seek to ensure its timely and successful completion. We would appreciate written responses to the following questions by April 15:

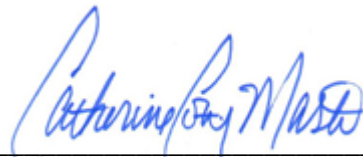
1. Would you please describe the interagency process that the Commission is conducting, and denote at what stage in this process the Commission currently is working on?
2. Would you please provide a timeline of the work the Commission has done over the past four months to gather the requisite data for the Deployment Locations Map, both internally and externally?
3. At this point, has the Commission made initial contact with all relevant agencies to request the necessary data to establish the Deployment Locations Map?
4. What agencies has the Commission reached out to so far in this effort?
5. If it has not already done so, when does the Commission expect to finish receiving the data needed from other agencies?
6. What are the Commission's plans to ensure agencies provide routine updates to their respective data?
7. Are specific agencies having challenges in gathering the necessary data or responding to the Commission's request?
8. Would you please outline the steps the Commission plans to take, with a timeline, once it has the requisite data from all relevant agencies?
9. Does the Commission anticipate being able to complete the Deployment Locations Map within the 18-month timeframe Congress requires?
10. How is the Commission planning to design the online user interface for the Deployment Locations Map to ensure users can easily identify, search, and filter broadband infrastructure and deployment projects across the federal government?
11. The Deployment Locations Map requires the Commission to incorporate the Broadband Map created under Section 802(c)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934. Does the Commission expect that it will be able to include the completed Broadband Map in the Deployment Locations Map within the 18-month timeline?

Thank you for your attention to this important effort.

Sincerely,



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator