

1 which networks must be built and operated and the
2 limited densities of the rural communities to be
3 served.

4 (6) All persons and entities that utilize and le-
5 verage networks should share equitably in sup-
6 porting the availability and sustainability of rural
7 broadband networks.

8 (b) GAO REPORT.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
10 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comp-
11 troller General shall publish a report that reviews
12 edge providers, except those described under para-
13 graph (2), that have data transported across the
14 network of a rural broadband provider in high cost
15 rural areas, including recommendations about how
16 other entities in the virtuous cycle of the internet
17 ecosystem can participate in solving these challenges
18 for rural broadband providers.

19 (2) EXEMPTIONS.—The following edge pro-
20 viders are exempt from the report described in para-
21 graph (1):

22 (A) Any State, local, or Tribal government,
23 elementary school or secondary school (as such
24 terms are defined in section 8101 of the Ele-
25 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965

1 (20 U.S.C. 7801)), library, hospital, or indi-
2 vidual.

3 (B) Any small business concern, as de-
4 scribed in section 3 of the Small Business Act
5 (15 U.S.C. 632).

6 (3) REVIEW OF COSTS.—

7 (A) CALCULATION OF COSTS.—The report
8 described under paragraph (1) shall include a
9 calculation of costs associated with transmission
10 by a rural broadband provider of edge provider
11 data that are not already recovered through
12 user rates that are reasonably comparable to
13 those in urban areas, Federal or State universal
14 service support, or other Federal or State pro-
15 grams aimed at promoting rural broadband de-
16 ployment or sustaining rural broadband net-
17 works.

18 (B) COSTS DESCRIBED.—The costs de-
19 scribed in subparagraph (A) include the fol-
20 lowing:

21 (i) Costs associated with the initial
22 deployment of a rural broadband network.

23 (ii) Costs associated with ongoing op-
24 eration and maintenance of such network.

1 (iii) Costs associated with the ongoing
2 delivery of services to users via that net-
3 work (including costs of transit and trans-
4 port between rural service areas and urban
5 or suburban interconnection points).

6 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
8 means the Federal Communications Commission.

9 (2) EDGE PROVIDER.—The term “edge pro-
10 vider” means a provider that—

11 (A) provides a service over the internet—

12 (i) for which the provider requires the
13 user to subscribe or establish an account in
14 order to use the service;

15 (ii) that the user purchases from the
16 provider of the service without a subscrip-
17 tion or account;

18 (iii) by which a program searches for
19 and identifies items in a database that cor-
20 respond to keywords or characters speci-
21 fied by the user, used especially for finding
22 particular sites on the World Wide Web; or

23 (iv) by which the user divulges sen-
24 sitive user information; and

1 (B) includes a service described in sub-
2 paragraph (A) that is provided through a soft-
3 ware program, including a mobile application.

4 (3) HIGH COST RURAL AREA.—The term “high
5 cost rural area” means any area of the United
6 States that is not contained in an incorporated city
7 or town with a population in excess of 20,000 inhab-
8 itants.

9 (4) RURAL BROADBAND PROVIDER.—The term
10 “rural broadband provider” means an entity pro-
11 viding broadband in a high cost rural area pursuant
12 to any terrestrial technology, including fixed or mo-
13 bile wireless or wireline networks, if such entity—

14 (A) provides broadband service in a high
15 cost rural area to fewer than 100,000 locations
16 or subscribers served within a State; and

17 (B) meets the service obligations on speed,
18 latency, and usage allowances as determined by
19 the Commission.

20 (5) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
21 ing given that term in section 3 of the Communica-
22 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153).

