

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-

22

OFFERED BY MR. HUFFMAN OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle B of title VI, add the following:

1 **SEC. ____ . RURAL BROADBAND PROVISIONS.**

2 (a) CLARIFICATION OF COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
3 AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.—Sec-
4 tion 8705(f) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018
5 (43 U.S.C. 1761a(f)) is amended by adding at the end
6 the following:

7 “(6) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AUTHORITY.—
8 The Secretary may enter into cooperative agree-
9 ments to carry out the activities described in sub-
10 paragraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (4).”.

11 (b) TRIBAL BROADBAND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—
12 Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C.
13 950bb et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end
14 the following:

15 **“SEC. 609. TRIBAL BROADBAND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make
17 grants, loans, or loan guarantees to entities to—

1 “(1) plan, construct, acquire, or improve facili-
2 ties or equipment for the purpose of providing
3 broadband service on tribal lands;

4 “(2) provide broadband service on tribal lands;

5 “(3) develop among tribal members technical
6 expertise related to broadband service; and

7 “(4) improve the adoption of broadband service
8 by individuals on tribal lands.

9 “(b) APPLICATION.—An entity desiring financial as-
10 sistance under this section shall submit an application to
11 the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-
12 taining such information as the Under Secretary may re-
13 quire, including—

14 “(1) a description of the ability of the entity to
15 furnish the minimum acceptable level of broadband
16 service for tribal lands; and

17 “(2) an assurance that the entity will submit a
18 report, at such time, in such manner, and containing
19 such information as the Under Secretary may speci-
20 fy, that describes—

21 “(A) the use by the entity of funds under
22 this section; and

23 “(B) the provision by the entity of
24 broadband service on tribal lands using such as-
25 sistance, including—

1 “(i) the number and location of resi-
2 dences and businesses that receive im-
3 proved broadband service as a result of
4 such assistance; and

5 “(ii) the average price and speed of
6 broadband service for such residences and
7 businesses before and after the use by the
8 entity of such assistance.

9 “(c) PRIORITY.—In providing financial assistance
10 under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to ap-
11 plications from entities proposing to—

12 “(1) provide broadband service in underserved
13 tribal areas;

14 “(2) provide broadband service to the greatest
15 number of households in underserved tribal areas;
16 and

17 “(3) improve the ability of tribal governments
18 or their designees to provide telecommunications
19 service on tribal lands.

20 “(d) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not provide
21 financial assistance under this section for a fiscal year to
22 an entity that provides telecommunications service to 20
23 percent or more of the households in the United States
24 if the cost to the Federal Government of such financial

1 assistance exceeds 15 percent of the assistance made avail-
2 able under this section for the fiscal year.

3 “(e) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
4 on which funds are first made available to carry out this
5 section under subsection (f), the Secretary shall submit
6 to Congress a report that describes the extent of participa-
7 tion under this section for the preceding fiscal year, in-
8 cluding a description of—

9 “(1) the communities served by activities sup-
10 ported by funds under this section;

11 “(2) the number of grants, loans, and loan
12 guarantees applied for and provided under this sec-
13 tion;

14 “(3) the period of time required to approve
15 each application under this section; and

16 “(4) the overall progress towards fulfilling the
17 goal of providing broadband service on tribal lands,
18 including a description of—

19 “(A) the number and location of residences
20 and businesses that receive improved broadband
21 service as a result of financial assistance under
22 this section;

23 “(B) the average price and speed of
24 broadband service for such residences and busi-
25 nesses;

1 “(C) any network improvements supported
2 under this section; and

3 “(D) activities supported under this sec-
4 tion that improve broadband service on tribal
5 lands for educational institutions, health care
6 providers, and public safety service providers.

7 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
8 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
9 out this section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
10 through 2031, to remain available until expended.”.

