

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. LANCE OF NEW JERSEY

Page 361, after line 13, insert the following (and re-designate any succeeding section accordingly):

1 **SEC. 6116. FEDERAL BROADBAND PROGRAM COORDINA-**
2 **TION.**

3 (a) CONSULTATION BETWEEN USDA AND NTIA.—

4 The Secretary shall consult with the Assistant Secretary
5 to assist in the verification of eligibility of the broadband
6 loan and grant programs of the Department of Agri-
7 culture. In providing assistance under the preceding sen-
8 tence, the Assistant Secretary shall make available the
9 broadband assessment and mapping capabilities of the
10 National Telecommunications and Information Adminis-
11 tration.

12 (b) CONSULTATION BETWEEN USDA AND FCC.—

13 (1) BY USDA.—The Secretary shall consult with
14 the Commission before making a broadband loan or
15 grant for a project to serve an area with respect to
16 which another entity is receiving Connect America
17 Fund or Mobility Fund support under the Federal
18 universal service support mechanisms established

1 under section 254 of the Communications Act of
2 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254).

3 (2) BY FCC.—The Commission shall consult
4 with the Secretary before offering or providing Con-
5 nect America Fund or Mobility Fund support under
6 the Federal universal service support mechanisms
7 established under section 254 of the Communica-
8 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254) to serve an area
9 with respect to which another entity has received an
10 award under a broadband loan or grant program of
11 the Department of Agriculture.

12 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year
13 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary,
14 the Commission, and the Assistant Secretary shall submit
15 to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on
16 Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives
17 and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-
18 estry and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
19 Transportation of the Senate a report on how best to co-
20 ordinate federally supported broadband programs and ac-
21 tivities in order to achieve the following objectives:

22 (1) Promote high-quality broadband service
23 that meets the long-term needs of rural residents
24 and businesses, by evaluating the broadband service
25 needs in rural areas for each decade through 2050.

1 (2) Support the long-term viability, sustain-
2 ability, and utility of federally supported rural
3 broadband infrastructure, by analyzing the technical
4 capabilities of the technologies currently available
5 and reasonably expected to be available by 2035 to
6 meet the broadband service needs of rural residents
7 identified under paragraph (1), including by ana-
8 lyzing the following:

9 (A) The real-world performance of such
10 technologies, including data rates, latency, data
11 usage restrictions, and other aspects of service
12 quality, as defined by the Commission.

13 (B) The suitability of each such technology
14 for residential, agricultural, educational,
15 healthcare, commercial, and industrial purposes
16 in rural areas.

17 (C) The cost to deploy and support such
18 technologies in several rural geographies.

19 (D) The costs associated with online plat-
20 forms, specifically the resulting constraints on
21 rural network bandwidth.

22 (3) Identify and quantify the availability of
23 broadband service and ongoing broadband deploy-
24 ment in rural areas, including ways to do the fol-
25 lowing:

1 (A) Harmonize broadband notification and
2 reporting requirements and develop common
3 verification procedures across all federally sup-
4 ported broadband programs.

5 (B) Consolidate and utilize the existing
6 broadband service data of the Commission.

7 (C) Collect and share data on those
8 projects in rural areas where Federal programs
9 are currently supporting broadband deployment,
10 including areas with respect to which an entity
11 is receiving—

12 (i) support under a broadband loan or
13 grant program of the Department of Agri-
14 culture; or

15 (ii) Connect America Fund or Mobil-
16 ity Fund support under the Federal uni-
17 versal service support mechanisms estab-
18 lished under section 254 of the Commu-
19 nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254).

20 (D) Leverage support technologies and
21 services from online platforms for providers of
22 broadband service in rural areas.

23 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assist-
2 ant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of
3 Commerce for Communications and Information.

4 (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
5 means the Federal Communications Commission.

6 (3) RURAL AREA.—The term “rural area” has
7 the meaning given the term in section 601(b)(3) of
8 the Rural Electrification Act of 1936.

