

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—119th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. 4448

To require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to create tools for tracking the progress of grant recipients under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, to require the Assistant Secretary to help executive agencies improve compliance with the statutory deadline for processing communications use applications, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended
to be proposed by Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN)

Viz:

- 1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-
- 2 lowing:
- 3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**
- 4 This Act may be cited as the “Accelerating
- 5 Broadband Permits Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. TRACKING BEAD PROGRESS AND PERMITS.**

2 (a) PROGRESS DASHBOARD.—Section 60102(j) of the
3 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (47 U.S.C.
4 1702(j)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(5) PROGRESS DASHBOARD.—The Assistant
6 Secretary shall make available on a public website a
7 dashboard that tracks the progress of each eligible
8 entity through major milestones under the Program,
9 including—

10 “(A) the amount of grant funds received
11 under this section that the eligible entity has
12 expended; and

13 “(B) the number of locations at which
14 broadband service has been made available
15 using grant funds received by the eligible entity
16 under this section.”.

17 (b) PUBLICATION OF SEMIANNUAL REPORTS.—Sec-
18 tion 60102(j)(1)(B) of the Infrastructure Investment and
19 Jobs Act (47 U.S.C. 1702(j)(1)(B)) is amended—

20 (1) by redesignating clauses (i) through (iv) as
21 subclauses (I) through (IV), respectively, and adjust-
22 ing the margins accordingly;

23 (2) by striking “Not later than” and inserting
24 the following:

25 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than”;
26 and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(ii) PUBLICATION BY ASSISTANT
3 SECRETARY.—Not later than 90 days after
4 receiving a report under clause (i), the As-
5 sistant Secretary shall make the report
6 available on a public website with any busi-
7 ness confidential information redacted.”.

8 (c) TRACKING PERMITS.—Section 60102(h) of the
9 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (47 U.S.C.
10 1702(h)) is amended—

11 (1) by redesignating paragraph (6) as para-
12 graph (7); and

13 (2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(6) TRACKING PERMITS.—

16 “(A) CREATION OF TOOL.—The Assistant
17 Secretary shall create a tool to help each eligi-
18 ble entity—

19 “(i) identify the status of the relevant
20 Federal permit requirements and related
21 permit submissions for each subgrantee of
22 the eligible entity; and

23 “(ii) monitor the progress of each
24 subgrantee of the eligible entity toward ob-
25 taining Federal permits.

1 “(B) USE OF TOOL.—On and after the
2 date that is 90 days after the date as of which
3 the final proposal of an eligible entity has been
4 approved under subsection (e)(4) and the eligi-
5 ble entity has entered into a subgrant agree-
6 ment with each subgrantee of the eligible entity,
7 the eligible entity shall use the tool created
8 under subparagraph (A) for the purposes de-
9 scribed in that subparagraph.”.

10 **SEC. 3. TRACKING AND IMPROVING PROCESSING TIMES**
11 **FOR COMMUNICATIONS USE APPLICATIONS.**

12 Section 6409(b)(3) of the Middle Class Tax Relief
13 and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1455(b)(3)) is
14 amended by adding at the end the following:

15 “(E) TRACKING AND IMPROVING PROC-
16 ESSING TIMES.—

17 “(i) DATA CONTROLS.—Not later than
18 120 days after the date of enactment of
19 the Accelerating Broadband Permits Act of
20 2026, the Assistant Secretary shall develop
21 controls to ensure that data is sufficiently
22 accurate and complete for an executive
23 agency to track the processing time for
24 each application described in subparagraph
25 (A) received by the executive agency.

1 “(ii) REQUIREMENT TO ANALYZE, AD-
2 DRESS, AND REPORT ON DELAY FAC-
3 TORS.—With respect to the factors that
4 contribute to delays in processing applica-
5 tions described in subparagraph (A), the
6 Assistant Secretary shall—

7 “(I) analyze the factors as the
8 delays are occurring;

9 “(II) take actions to address the
10 factors; and

11 “(III) provide an annual report
12 on the factors to—

13 “(aa) the Committee on
14 Commerce, Science, and Trans-
15 portation of the Senate;

16 “(bb) the Committee on En-
17 ergy and Natural Resources of
18 the Senate;

19 “(cc) the Committee on En-
20 ergy and Commerce of the House
21 of Representatives; and

22 “(dd) the Committee on
23 Natural Resources of the House
24 of Representatives.

1 “(iii) METHOD FOR ALERTING STAFF
2 TO AT-RISK APPLICATIONS.—Not later
3 than 120 days after the date of enactment
4 of the Accelerating Broadband Permits Act
5 of 2026, the Assistant Secretary shall es-
6 tablish a method to alert employees of an
7 executive agency to any application de-
8 scribed in subparagraph (A) with respect
9 to which the executive agency is at risk of
10 failing to meet the 270-day deadline under
11 that subparagraph.”.

12 **SEC. 4. MINIMUM BROADBAND PROJECT COST.**

13 Section 41001(6)(A) of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C.
14 4370m(6)(A)) is amended—

15 (1) in clause (iii), by striking “or” at the end;
16 (2) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (v);
17 and

18 (3) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

19 “(iv)(I) is subject to NEPA;

20 “(II) involves the construction of in-
21 frastructure for broadband; and

22 “(III) is likely to require a total in-
23 vestment of more than \$5,000,000; or”.