

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2669

To improve access to telecommunications and Internet services in rural areas.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2001

Mr. MORAN of Kansas (for himself, Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. GOODE, Mr. BISHOP, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SCHAFFER, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. CONDIT, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. BERRY, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. HAYES, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. KIND, and Mr. JOHN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

---

## A BILL

To improve access to telecommunications and Internet services in rural areas.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Rural Telecommuni-  
5 cations Enhancement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF LOANS AND GRANTS TO IM-**  
2 **PROVE ACCESS TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS**  
3 **AND INTERNET SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS.**

4 (a) LOANS.—

5 (1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Agriculture  
6 (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) may  
7 make a loan to an eligible entity to finance the im-  
8 provement, expansion, construction, acquisition, and  
9 operation of systems of facilities to furnish or im-  
10 prove broadband transmission service in rural areas.

11 (2) INTEREST RATE.—The Secretary shall  
12 charge and collect interest on a loan made under  
13 this section at a rate equal to the coupon equivalent  
14 yield on obligations of the United States with com-  
15 parable maturity issued at the most recent auction  
16 of such obligations by the Department of the Treas-  
17 ury.

18 (3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not  
19 make more than \$500,000,000 in loans under this  
20 subsection per fiscal year during fiscal years 2002  
21 through 2011.

22 (b) GRANTS.—The Secretary of Agriculture may  
23 make a grant under this section to an eligible entity to  
24 finance the improvement, expansion, construction, acquisi-  
25 tion, and operation of systems of facilities to furnish or  
26 improve broadband transmission service in rural areas.

1 (c) TECHNOLOGY NEUTRALITY.—In determining  
2 whether or not to make a loan or grant to an entity under  
3 this section, the type of technology proposed to be em-  
4 ployed by the entity may not be taken into consideration.

5 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
7 ty” means a legally organized non-Federal public or  
8 private entity, including an incorporated or a limited  
9 liability entity, cooperative, non-profit organization,  
10 or limited dividend or mutual association, that pro-  
11 vides, or proposes to provide, broadband trans-  
12 mission service in a rural area.

13 (2) RURAL AREA.—The term “rural area”  
14 means a city, town, or unincorporated area that has  
15 a population of not more than 25,000 inhabitants.

16 (e) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPRO-  
17 PRIATIONS.—

18 (1) LOANS.—For the cost (as defined in section  
19 502(5) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990)  
20 of loans under this section, there are authorized to  
21 be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture a  
22 total of not more than \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal  
23 years 2002 through 2011.

24 (2) GRANTS.—For grants under this section,  
25 there are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-

- 1       retary of Agriculture not more than \$2,000,000 for
- 2       each of fiscal years 2002 through 2011.

○