

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2035

To tailor the rural broadband program to better serve those living in rural areas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 25, 2007

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN (for herself, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. POMEROY) 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 tailor the rural broadband program to better serve those living 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 Broadband Im-
5 provement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. RURAL BROADBAND PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS.**

7 Section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936
8 (7 U.S.C. 950bb) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (2)
2 and inserting the following:

3 “(2) ELIGIBLE RURAL COMMUNITY.—The term
4 ‘eligible rural community’ means any area of the
5 United States that is not—

6 “(A) included within the boundaries of any
7 city, town, borough, or village, whether incor-
8 porated or unincorporated, with a population of
9 more than 15,000 inhabitants;

10 “(B) included within the boundaries of an
11 urbanized area or urban cluster; or

12 “(C) located within 10 miles of the bound-
13 ary of any such city, village, borough, or town
14 or any urbanized area or urban cluster.

15 “(3) URBANIZED AREA.—The term ‘urbanized
16 area’ has the meaning given the term on page 11667
17 of the Federal Register for March 15, 2002 (Volume
18 67, Number 51).

19 “(4) URBAN CLUSTER.—The term ‘urban clus-
20 ter’ has the meaning given the term on page 11667
21 of the Federal Register for March 15, 2002 (Volume
22 67, Number 51), except that ‘15,000’ shall be sub-
23 stituted for ‘2,500’.

24 “(5) UNSERVED.—The term ‘unserved’ means,
25 with respect to a household, that broadband service

1 is unavailable to the household, and that broadband
2 facilities that would serve the household are not
3 under construction.”;

4 (2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
5 following:

6 “(3) AMOUNT OF LOAN OR LOAN GUAR-
7 ANTEE.—The amount of the loan or loan guarantee
8 for which an entity is otherwise eligible under this
9 section for a project shall, subject to any general
10 limitation on funding a project imposed by the Sec-
11 retary, be an amount equal to—

12 “(A) if at least 50 percent of the house-
13 holds in the eligible rural community to be
14 served by the project are unserved at the time
15 the entity applied for the loan or loan guar-
16 antee, the total cost of the project; or

17 “(B) in any other case, the total costs of
18 the project multiplied by the percentage of
19 households in the eligible rural community to be
20 served by the project represented by those that
21 are unserved.”; and

22 (3) in subsection (g)—

23 (A) by striking “and” at the end of para-
24 graph (1)(B);

1 (B) by striking the period at the end of
2 paragraph (2) and inserting “; and”; and

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

4 “(3) be repayable to the Secretary in full (with
5 interest and reasonable administrative costs) if the
6 project for which the loan or loan guarantee is pro-
7 vided is not completed throughout the entire area in
8 which the project is proposed to be carried out, with-
9 in 3 years after the date the loan or loan guarantee
10 is approved.”.

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