

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3094

To amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to authorize the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service to make telecommunications grants for the collection of broadband infrastructure data by local governments, economic development or other community organizations, electric or telephone cooperatives, and small internet providers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 18, 2019

Mr. MERKLEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to authorize the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service to make telecommunications grants for the collection of broadband infrastructure data by local governments, economic development or other community organizations, electric or telephone cooperatives, and small internet providers, and for other purposes.

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 “Community Broadband
5 Mapping Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR THE COLLECTION OF RURAL**
 2 **BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE DATA.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VI of the Rural Electrifica-
 4 tion Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb et seq.) is amended by
 5 adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 607. GRANTS FOR THE COLLECTION OF RURAL**
 7 **BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE DATA.**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) COVERED AUTHORITY.—The term ‘covered
 10 authority’ means—

11 “(A) this section;

12 “(B) section 602;

13 “(C) section 603;

14 “(D) section 604;

15 “(E) section 2333 of the Food, Agri-
 16 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990
 17 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa–2); and

18 “(F) section 779 of division A of the Con-
 19 solidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law
 20 115–141; 132 Stat. 399).

21 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
 22 tity’ means—

23 “(A) a unit of local government in a rural
 24 area;

1 “(B) an economic development or other
2 community organization that serves a rural
3 area;

4 “(C) an electric cooperative (as defined in
5 section 3 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C.
6 796)) that sells electric energy to persons in a
7 rural area;

8 “(D) a telephone cooperative that serves a
9 rural area; and

10 “(E) an internet service provider that—

11 “(i) has not more than 100,000 sub-
12 scribers; and

13 “(ii) serves a rural area.

14 “(3) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’
15 means an area that is not in an urbanized area or
16 urban cluster the population of which is 25,000 or
17 more, as determined by the Director of the Bureau
18 of the Census.

19 “(b) AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS TO CERTAIN EN-
20 TITIES TO COLLECT BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE
21 DATA.—Notwithstanding any other provision of a covered
22 authority, the Secretary may make a grant under a cov-
23 ered authority to an eligible entity for the purpose of ena-
24 bling the collection of data relating to where broadband
25 infrastructure is located and which homes are provided

1 with nonsatellite broadband service, without regard to any
2 applicable household service percentage requirement.”.

3 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
4 this section shall take effect 1 year after the date of enact-
5 ment of this Act.

