

GREG STANTON
ARIZONA'S FOURTH DISTRICT

VICE RANKING MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
AVIATION SUBCOMMITTEE
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT SUBCOMMITTEE
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
WESTERN HEMISPHERE SUBCOMMITTEE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

WASHINGTON OFFICE
207 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-9888

DISTRICT OFFICE
1220 S. ALMA SCHOOL ROAD, STE. 209
MESA, ARIZONA 85210
(602) 956-2463

STANTON.HOUSE.GOV

December 2, 2024

The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel
Chairwoman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairwoman Rosenworcel:

I write regarding the deployment of the Rural Digital Opportunity Funding (RDOF) and the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) programs and the impact on Arizonans' access to high-speed internet.

The deployment of these federal programs is a once in a generation opportunity to connect all of Arizona—improving access to health care, education, and economic opportunity. This is especially important to our Tribal communities – many of whom do not have access to broadband technology unlike residents in urban areas. Arizona has been allocated nearly one billion dollars¹ through the BEAD program alone to close this digital divide.

The BEAD program does not allow for funding to be utilized in locations that are receiving RDOF funding.² However, there is some concern that existing RDOF contracts will not be fully executed, and the timeline will line up in a way that could preclude unserved locations from taking advantage of this BEAD opportunity.

I write to request that you provide written answers no later than December 13, 2024, to the following questions.

- RDOF providers must complete 40% of deployments by the end of year three of their authorization. If RDOF providers do not reach this milestone, could those areas be released in Arizona with enough time to be eligible for BEAD funding?
- What is the strategy for the second phase of RDOF? Will there be any communication with the incoming administration on how soon phase two will begin? How will areas that do not receive service through the first phase of RDOF and through BEAD be accounted for?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Stanton".

Greg Stanton
Member of Congress

¹ <https://www.ntia.gov/press-release/2024/biden-harris-administration-approves-arizonas-internet-all-initial-proposal>

² https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/202307/BEAD_Frequently_Asked_Questions_Version_3.0.pdf