



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

**JB PRITZKER**  
GOVERNOR

May 12, 2026

The Honorable Howard W. Lutnick  
U.S. Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

I write to strongly urge your prompt approval of Illinois' Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Final Proposal, which will provide \$1.04 billion to connect 383,000 people across the state, the vast majority located in rural areas.

At this point, it seems unusual and targeted that the U.S. Department of Commerce had the capacity to complete in-depth reviews and approvals for every single state except for Illinois and California. Per your agency's own policy, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) committed to completing its review of each Final Proposal within 90 days of submission. It's been more than seven months since our Final Proposal was submitted.

Illinois families and businesses in rural areas are the ones paying the price. Service providers are ready to get shovels in the ground on 232 construction projects to connect Illinois homes and businesses. With your decades of experience on Wall Street, you understand more than most that time is money – and with each passing day, progress is stalled, costs rise and the financial impact for providers continue to grow as they wait for these critical projects to move forward. All of this breaks your promise to get Americans connected faster and stands in the way of economic progress and prosperity for impacted families and business owners.

Each passing day keeps over 383,000 Illinoisans and over 1,200 schools, libraries, and hospitals disconnected. Patients are unable to access critical telemedicine services, students cannot complete homework online, farmers are left without the necessary tools to monitor crops, new businesses cannot leverage online platforms and job seekers lose out on opportunities to support their families.

To unlock essential broadband access for the households and businesses in Illinois, I urge your prompt approval of Illinois' Final Proposal and release of funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB Pritzker".

JB Pritzker  
Governor of Illinois