

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2022

The Honorable Janet Yellen
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington D.C. 20003

Dear Secretary Yellen:

Thank you for the Department of the Treasury's recent publication of the Final Rule on the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLRF). We write regarding the need for additional clarification on how local governments can use SLRF grants to expand broadband infrastructure and deployment in their communities.

Local governments play a critical and direct role facilitating broadband upgrades and new deployments through their zoning and permitting functions. To ensure broadband providers can build the networks to meet the rapidly increasing connectivity needs of all communities, local governments need the resources to process requests for zoning and permitting approval. And with significant broadband funding coming to communities soon, many local governments, particularly those in rural or underserved areas with one-person permitting offices, would benefit from additional resources to manage the expected increase in applications for broadband-related infrastructure.

To that effect, we believe more clarity is needed in the SLRF guidance to assure communities they can use this funding to expand and strengthen their zoning and permitting offices, including the hiring and training of employees and the purchase of software and equipment—all of which would contribute to the efficient deployment of broadband networks.

Thank you for your work to clarify eligible uses for SLRF grants and ensure local governments can take full advantage of these funds. I would be glad to answer any questions or discuss specific recommendations to achieve these objectives with you or your staff at any time. Thank you for your remarkable service and your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress