

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Mike Quigley  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Financial Services and  
General Government  
2000 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steve Womack  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Financial Services and  
General Government  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Quigley and Ranking Member Womack:

As you develop the Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that the Subcommittee help support local government efforts to expand broadband infrastructure and deployment by including language clarifying that grants from the Department of Treasury State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) can be utilized to expand and strengthen the broadband infrastructure permitting process.

Local governments play a direct role facilitating broadband upgrades and new deployments through their zoning and permitting functions. With significant broadband funding coming to communities soon through the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)*, many communities, 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. Unfortunately, the *IIJA* grant program includes no specific resources for local permitting offices – a critical part of broadband planning and deployment.

This is why an explicit reference to permitting in the SLFRF FAQ guidance is necessary and would assure communities they can use those grants to prepare their zoning and permitting offices for the coming surge of fixed and wireless broadband applications under the *IIJA*.

To address this issue, I respectfully request that the Subcommittee include the following report language under the Department of Treasury account:

***State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund for Broadband Deployment.*** *The Committee encourages the Department to make clear that grants under the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund can be used to expand and strengthen communities' zoning and permitting offices to facilitate and expedite fixed and wireless broadband deployment. This would include the ability to use grants to hire and train employees and for the purchase of software and equipment, all of which will contribute to the expeditious deployment of fixed and wireless broadband networks.*

Thank you for your consideration of my request. I look forward to working with you to ensure our communities can take full advantage of the transformative funds available to them. Should you have any questions or require further information, I would be glad to assist in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lizzie Fletcher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress

cc:

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chairwoman of the House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Appropriations