

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1681

To require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish an interagency strike force to ensure that certain Federal land management agencies, including the organizational units of such agencies, prioritize the review of requests for communications use authorizations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2025

Mr. EVANS of Colorado (for himself and Ms. CRAIG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish an interagency strike force to ensure that certain Federal land management agencies, including the organizational units of such agencies, prioritize the review of requests for communications use authorizations, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Expediting Federal
3 Broadband Deployment Reviews Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERAGENCY STRIKE FORCE.**

5 (a) INTERAGENCY STRIKE FORCE.—

6 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the As-
8 sistant Secretary shall establish an interagency
9 strike force to ensure that each Federal land man-
10 agement agency, including each organizational unit
11 of the agency, prioritizes the review of requests for
12 communications use authorizations.

13 (2) MEMBERS.—The strike force shall be com-
14 posed of—

15 (A) the Assistant Secretary;

16 (B) the head of each Federal land manage-
17 ment agency;

18 (C) a designee of the Secretary of Agri-
19 culture, other than the Chief of the Forest
20 Service; and

21 (D) a designee of the Secretary of the In-
22 terior, other than the Director of the Bureau of
23 Land Management.

24 (3) DUTIES.—The duties of the strike force
25 shall include—

1 (A) conducting periodic calls between the
2 members of the strike force to ensure that each
3 Federal land management agency, including
4 each organizational unit of the agency,
5 prioritizes the review of requests for commu-
6 nications use authorizations;

7 (B) establishing objective and reasonable
8 goals for the review of requests for communica-
9 tions use authorizations; and

10 (C) monitoring, and facilitating the ac-
11 countability of, each Federal land management
12 agency, including each organizational unit of
13 the agency, with respect to meeting such goals.

14 (4) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
15 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
16 the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the appro-
17 priate congressional committees a report on the ef-
18 fectiveness of the strike force in ensuring that each
19 Federal land management agency, including each or-
20 ganizational unit of the agency, prioritizes the review
21 of requests for communications use authorizations.

22 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
24 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
25 mittees” means—

1 (A) the Committee on Energy and Com-
2 merce of the House of Representatives;

3 (B) the Committee on Natural Resources
4 of the House of Representatives;

5 (C) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
6 and Transportation of the Senate;

7 (D) the Committee on Environment and
8 Public Works of the Senate;

9 (E) the Committee on Agriculture of the
10 House of Representatives; and

11 (F) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
12 tion, and Forestry of the Senate.

13 (2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assist-
14 ant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of
15 Commerce for Communications and Information.

16 (3) COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY.—The term
17 “communications facility” has the meaning given the
18 term “communications facility installation” in sec-
19 tion 6409(d) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job
20 Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1455(d)).

21 (4) COMMUNICATIONS USE.—The term “com-
22 munications use” means the placement and oper-
23 ation of a communications facility.

24 (5) COMMUNICATIONS USE AUTHORIZATION.—
25 The term “communications use authorization”

1 means an easement, right-of-way, lease, license, or
2 other authorization—

3 (A) provided by a Federal land manage-
4 ment agency;

5 (B) to locate or modify a communications
6 facility on covered land; and

7 (C) for the primary purpose of authorizing
8 the occupancy and use of such land for commu-
9 nications use.

10 (6) COVERED LAND.—The term “covered land”
11 means—

12 (A) public lands; and

13 (B) National Forest System land.

14 (7) FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—
15 The term “Federal land management agency”
16 means each of the following:

17 (A) The Bureau of Land Management.

18 (B) The Forest Service.

19 (8) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term
20 “National Forest System” has the meaning given
21 that term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Range-
22 land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
23 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

24 (9) ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT.—The term “orga-
25 nizational unit” means—

1 (A) with respect to the Bureau of Land
2 Management—

- 3 (i) a State office;
4 (ii) a regional office;
5 (iii) a district office; or
6 (iv) a field office; and

7 (B) with respect to the Forest Service—

- 8 (i) a regional office;
9 (ii) a management unit; or
10 (iii) a ranger district office.

11 (10) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands”
12 has the meaning given that term in section 103 of
13 the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of
14 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702).

15 (11) STRIKE FORCE.—The term “strike force”
16 means the interagency strike force established under
17 subsection (a)(1).

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