

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2298

To ensure that certain broadband projects are not subject to requirements to prepare certain environmental or historical preservation reviews, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 2025

Mr. FULCHER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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

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## A BILL

To ensure that certain broadband projects are not subject to requirements to prepare certain environmental or historical preservation reviews, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Reducing Barriers for  
5 Broadband on Federal Lands Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXEMPTIONS FOR CERTAIN BROADBAND**  
2 **PROJECTS.**

3 (a) NEPA EXEMPTION.—The issuance of a Federal  
4 authorization with respect to a broadband project carried  
5 out in a right-of-way may not be considered a major Fed-  
6 eral action under section 102(2)(C) of the National Envi-  
7 ronmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

8 (b) NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT EX-  
9 EMPTION.—A broadband project carried out in a right-  
10 of-way may not be considered an undertaking under sec-  
11 tion 300320 of title 54, United States Code.

12 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) BROADBAND PROJECT.—The term  
14 “broadband project” means an installation, by a  
15 broadband provider on Federal land, of wireline or  
16 wireless broadband infrastructure that enables a  
17 user to originate and receive high-quality voice, data,  
18 graphics, and video telecommunications, including  
19 copper lines, fiber optic lines, communications tow-  
20 ers, buildings, or other improvements.

21 (2) BROADBAND PROVIDER.—The term  
22 “broadband provider” means a provider of wireline  
23 or wireless broadband infrastructure that enables a  
24 user to originate and receive high-quality voice, data,  
25 graphics, and video telecommunications.

1           (3) FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION.—The term  
2 “Federal authorization”—

3           (A) means any authorization required  
4 under Federal law with respect to a project;  
5 and

6           (B) includes any permits, special use au-  
7 thorizations, certifications, opinions, or other  
8 approvals as may be required under Federal law  
9 with respect to a project.

10          (4) RIGHT-OF-WAY.—The term “right-of-  
11 way”—

12           (A) means—

13           (i) the area on, below, or above a  
14 roadway, highway, street, sidewalk, alley,  
15 or similar property (whether currently or  
16 previously used in such manner); and

17           (ii) any land immediately adjacent to  
18 and contiguous with property described in  
19 clause (i) that is within the right-of-way  
20 grant; and

21           (B) does not include a portion of the Inter-  
22 state System (as such term is defined in section  
23 101(a) of title 23, United States Code).

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