

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5419

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 4, 2026

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a plan for ensuring timely review of broadband land 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 “Enhancing Adminis-
3 trative Reviews for Broadband Deployment Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ENSURING TIMELY REVIEW OF BROADBAND LAND**
5 **USE AUTHORIZATIONS.**

6 (a) STUDY AND REPORT.—

7 (1) STUDY.—The Secretaries concerned shall
8 each conduct, with respect to the relevant covered
9 department, a study to determine—

10 (A) if there are programmatic or adminis-
11 trative barriers to the timely review of requests
12 for broadband land use authorizations;

13 (B) if there are revisions to rules or regu-
14 lations that could be implemented to improve
15 efficiency with respect to reviewing requests for
16 broadband land use authorizations; and

17 (C) if there are processes for prioritizing
18 the review of requests for broadband land use
19 authorizations.

20 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
21 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries
22 concerned shall jointly submit to the appropriate
23 congressional committees a report that—

24 (A) describes the results of the studies
25 conducted under paragraph (1), including any
26 barriers, revisions, or processes identified under

1 subparagraphs (A) through (C) of such para-
2 graph; and

3 (B) includes a plan for providing, with re-
4 spect to the organizational units of the relevant
5 covered departments, the staffing necessary to
6 ensure timely review of broadband land use au-
7 thorizations.

8 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
10 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
11 mittees” means the—

12 (A) Committees on Natural Resources, Ag-
13 riculture, and Energy and Commerce of the
14 House of Representatives; and

15 (B) Committees on Commerce, Science,
16 and Transportation and Environment and Pub-
17 lic Works of the Senate.

18 (2) BROADBAND LAND USE AUTHORIZATION.—
19 The term “broadband land use authorization”
20 means an easement, right-of-way, lease, license, or
21 other authorization—

22 (A) provided by the Secretary of the Inte-
23 rior or the Secretary of Agriculture;

24 (B) to locate or modify a communications
25 facility on covered land; and

1 (C) for the primary purpose of authorizing
2 the occupancy and use of such covered land for
3 communications use.

4 (3) COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY.—The term
5 “communications facility” has the meaning given the
6 term “communications facility installation” in sec-
7 tion 6409(d) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job
8 Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1455(d)).

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

12 (5) COVERED LAND.—The term “covered land”
13 means—

14 (A) public lands; and

15 (B) National Forest System land.

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

21 (7) ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT.—The term “orga-
22 nizational unit” means—

23 (A) with respect to the Department of the
24 Interior—

1 (i) a State office of the Bureau of
2 Land Management;

3 (ii) a district office of the Bureau of
4 Land Management; or

5 (iii) a field office of the Bureau of
6 Land Management; and

7 (B) with respect to the Department of Ag-
8 riculture—

9 (i) a regional office of the Forest
10 Service;

11 (ii) a management unit of the Forest
12 Service; or

13 (iii) a ranger district office of the For-
14 est Service.

15 (8) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands”
16 has the meaning given that term in section 103 of
17 the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of
18 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702).

19 (9) RELEVANT COVERED DEPARTMENT.—The
20 term “relevant covered department” means—

21 (A) with respect to the Secretary of the In-
22 terior, the Department of the Interior; and

23 (B) with respect to the Secretary of Agri-
24 culture, the Department of Agriculture.

1 (10) SECRETARIES CONCERNED.—The term

2 “Secretaries concerned” means—

3 (A) the Secretary of the Interior; and

4 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting

5 through the Chief of the Forest Service.

Passed the House of Representatives March 3,
2026.

Attest: **KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,**
Clerk.