



Governor Michael J. Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

December 23, 2019

Mr. Chad Rupe, National Administrator
United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Utilities Service
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Suite 5135
Washington D.C. 20250-1510

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Dear Administrator Rupe,

I am proud to submit the State of Alaska's 2019 update to our statewide broadband plan dated December 11, 2016 entitled "A Blueprint for Alaska's Broadband Future." Our updated goals remain aggressive and reflect the urgency required to address our Broadband deficits. The needs of Alaska are shared by many people living in rural America, only magnified even more by the vast distances, imposing geographical challenges, and dispersed populace. The State of Alaska and its residents appreciate the important and vital role the United States Department of Agriculture- Rural Utilities Service (USDA-RUS) plays in our economic growth and diversification. Your leadership in providing the Reconnect Program has been invaluable to the nation.

In order for Alaska to grow and thrive, Broadband must become ubiquitous and affordable in our overwhelmingly rural state. In the Federal Communication Commission's 2019 Broadband Deployment Report, despite improvements, Alaska's rural population remains one of the most underserved populations in the country. It cannot be overstated that Broadband is a critical infrastructure need in Alaska. Please accept this plan, I believe that it is worthy of your support as we strive to move our state forward.

My administration is focused on removing barriers to success. As stated in my letter to you on May 29, 2019, the Regulatory Commission of Alaska does not restrict Alaskan utility companies from providing Broadband Services. Additionally, as I have shared with you previously, my administration is committed to, and affirms that, procedures are in place for expediting right-of-way and environment requirements for Broadband projects. As such, I signed Administrative Order 310 on May 30, 2019.

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Your assistance and encouragement of our efforts, has, is, and will continue to be very much appreciated.

Sincerely,



Mike Dunleavy
Governor