

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION**

Nominations
Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

REPUBLICAN QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD

COVER PAGE
Harry Kumar

SENATOR DAN SULLIVAN (R-AK)

On January 17, 2025, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's announcement of over \$113 million in federal broadband grants from the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP). These awards are part of the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act, and aim to equip Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Native American entities with the resources needed to bolster high-speed internet deployment, workforce development, telehealth, and other programs across the country. Please provide a status update on the following awards:

- Old Harbor Native Corporation: \$64.7 million to deliver fiber optic connectivity to the communities of Old Harbor and Akhiok in rural Alaska. These areas have long struggled with access to reliable and affordable high-speed internet—a gap that continues to widen the digital divide and hinder access to education, healthcare, economic opportunity, and emergency response systems.
- Kawerak, Inc.: \$48.5 million to deliver fiber optic connectivity to St. Lawrence Island from Nome for the communities of Savoonga and Gambell. For decades, these communities have faced significant barriers due to inadequate communication infrastructure, which has hindered education, healthcare, economic development, and emergency response systems.

Answer: On January 16, 2025, NTIA announced the recommendation of both awards for approval under the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) Notice of Funding 2. Upon the change of Administration, the Department conducted a comprehensive and thorough review of all grant programs, including TBCP. The awards are now pending final review and clearance by Department of Commerce leadership.