

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

Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 2:15 P.M.

DEMOCRATIC QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD

COVER PAGE
Arielle Roth

RANKING MEMBER MARIA CANTWELL (D-WA)

Ongoing Spectrum Studies. During the first Trump Administration, there were failures to coordinate on Federal and commercial spectrum policy. I believe we must create a coordinated approach to domestic spectrum policy, where agencies such as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Defense (DoD), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) work together with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) – cooperatively – on spectrum.

Question 1: Yes or no. Do you agree that NTIA, DoD, and other federal agencies must complete the ongoing studies of the lower 3 Gigahertz and 7 and 8 Gigahertz bands before a decision is made to reallocate that spectrum?

Answer: I agree that rigorous and careful study should precede decisions to reallocate these spectrum bands.

Question 2: Do you think it's wise to auction Federal spectrum before technical studies are finished to determine the viability of relocating Federal systems?

Answer: No.

Question 3: If confirmed, will you commit to collaborating on a spectrum policy that engages stakeholders from the Department of Commerce (DOC), DoD, DOT, FCC, and industry, to work towards resolution to restore U.S. leadership in innovation?

Answer: Yes.

Question 4: If confirmed, will you commit to meeting with the members of the Interagency Spectrum Advisory Council upon confirmation?

Answer: Yes.

Question 5: If confirmed, will you commit to receiving a classified briefing about the importance of spectrum for national security from the DoD and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence within a reasonable timeframe?

Answer: Yes.

Question 6: Yes or no. Do you agree that we cannot put our national security and public safety at risk to free up spectrum for sale to the commercial sector?

Answer: Yes.

Question 7: Yes or no, do you agree that proper coordination of spectrum use is vital?

Answer: Yes.

Infrastructure, Affordability, and Broadband Equity Access and Deployment. The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) provided access to affordable internet for 23 million households before Congressional Republicans blocked efforts to renew the program last year. While the ACP is now defunct, millions of Americans still struggle to afford internet access, even though it is vital for modern life.

Question 1: Do you agree that affordability is a major factor in our country's digital divide?

Answer: Yes.

Question 2: How do you see NTIA's role ensuring broadband is affordable for all?

Answer: Congress has directed NTIA to play a role in promoting broadband affordability by administering broadband programs like BEAD. NTIA can also help to reduce unnecessary permitting burdens that can increase the cost of providing broadband and expand commercial spectrum access, which in turn increases both mobile and broadband competition, driving down costs for consumers.

Question 3: Yes or no. Do you commit to follow the law and require all Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) subgrantees to offer at least one "low-cost broadband service option," as required under the statute?

Answer: Yes, I commit to following the law.

Infrastructure and BEAD Allocations. The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021 appropriated \$42 billion for the BEAD program, \$1.2 billion of which was allocated to the State of Washington to connect households to broadband. The commitment that Congress made to reach the goal of connecting unserved and underserved households is well underway, with plans in all 56 states and territories approved by NTIA, in compliance with the law.

Question 1: Yes or no. If confirmed, will you commit to releasing all allocated funds to the states that have already had their final proposals approved? If no, why not?

Answer: If confirmed, I will work to expeditiously release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 2: Yes or no. Ms. Roth, do you agree that states need the flexibility to implement the BEAD program, and ensure that it works for the people in each state and territory—and that what works in Rhode Island may not work in Texas?

Answer: Yes.

Question 2: Yes or no. Will you commit to providing states with the flexibility to use their BEAD funds to select the providers and technologies that work best for their unique circumstances?

Answer: **I recognize that every state is different and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. I agree that states should have flexibility to tailor solutions to their individual circumstances, consistent with the law.**

If confirmed, I will work with states to deliver the best broadband service possible for their constituents, consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 3: Yes or no. If a state like West Virginia wants to use its allocation to fund fiber rather than satellite, will you stand in its way?

Answer: **No, I recognize that every state is different and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. I agree that states should have flexibility to tailor solutions to their individual circumstances, consistent with the law.**

If confirmed, I will work with states to deliver the best broadband service possible for their constituents, consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

Question 4: Do you believe NTIA has the authority to establish a national per location cap as part of the BEAD program? If so, please cite the specific provisions and explain your reasoning?

Answer:

If confirmed and the issue of a per-location cap were to come up, I would consult with legal counsel, NTIA's career staff, state broadband offices, and industry stakeholders, as appropriate. Moreover, a per-location cap, should it come up, would need to account for consideration of high-cost areas, including high-cost Tribal areas.

Preserving BEAD Allocations. During your hearing, I was disappointed that you did not provide a clear commitment to preserve the BEAD allocations that NTIA made to states in 2023. The American people deserve clarity on this important question. As such, please provide a Yes or No response to the following questions:

Question 1: Will you commit to preserving the \$1,227,742,066.30 that NTIA allocated in 2023 to my home state of Washington?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 2: Will you commit to preserving the \$1,401,221,901.77 that NTIA allocated to Alabama?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 3: Will you commit to preserving the \$1,017,139,672.42 that NTIA allocated to Alaska?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 4: Will you commit to preserving the \$37,564,827.53 that NTIA allocated to American Samoa?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 5: Will you commit to preserving the \$993,112,231.37 that NTIA allocated to Arizona?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 6: Will you commit to preserving the \$1,024,303,993.86 that NTIA allocated to Arkansas?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 7: Will you commit to preserving the \$1,864,136,508.93 that NTIA allocated to California?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 8: Will you commit to preserving the \$826,522,650.41 that NTIA allocated to Colorado?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 9: Will you commit to preserving the \$80,796,709.02 that NTIA allocated to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 10: Will you commit to preserving the \$144,180,792.71 that NTIA allocated to Connecticut?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 11: Will you commit to preserving the \$107,748,384.66 that NTIA allocated to Delaware?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 12: Will you commit to preserving the \$100,694,786.93 that NTIA allocated to the District of Columbia?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 13: Will you commit to preserving the \$1,169,947,392.70 that NTIA allocated to Florida?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 14: Will you commit to preserving the \$1,307,214,371.30 that NTIA allocated to Georgia?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 15: Will you commit to preserving the \$156,831,733.59 that NTIA allocated to Guam?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 16: Will you commit to preserving the \$149,484,493.57 that NTIA allocated to Hawaii?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 17: Will you commit to preserving the \$583,256,249.88 that NTIA allocated to Idaho?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 18: Will you commit to preserving the \$1,040,420,751.50 that NTIA allocated to Illinois?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 19: Will you commit to preserving the \$868,109,929.79 that NTIA allocated to Indiana?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 20: Will you commit to preserving the \$415,331,313.00 that NTIA allocated to Iowa?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 21: Will you commit to preserving the \$451,725,998.15 that NTIA allocated to Kansas?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 22: Will you commit to preserving the \$1,086,172,536.86 that NTIA allocated to Kentucky?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 23: Will you commit to preserving the \$1,355,554,552.94 that NTIA allocated to Louisiana?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 24: Will you commit to preserving the \$271,977,723.07 that NTIA allocated to Maine?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 25: Will you commit to preserving the \$267,738,400.71 that NTIA allocated to Maryland?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 26: Will you commit to preserving the \$147,422,464.39 that NTIA allocated to Massachusetts?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 27: Will you commit to preserving the \$1,559,362,479.29 that NTIA allocated to Michigan?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 28: Will you commit to preserving the \$651,839,368.20 that NTIA allocated to Minnesota?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 29: Will you commit to preserving the \$1,203,561,563.05 that NTIA allocated to Mississippi?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 30: Will you commit to preserving the \$1,736,302,708.39 that NTIA allocated to Missouri?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 31: Will you commit to preserving the \$628,973,798.59 that NTIA allocated to Montana?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 32: Will you commit to preserving the \$405,281,070.41 that NTIA allocated to Nebraska?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 33: Will you commit to preserving the \$416,666,229.74 that NTIA allocated to Nevada?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 34: Will you commit to preserving the \$196,560,278.97 that NTIA allocated to New Hampshire?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 35: Will you commit to preserving the \$263,689,548.65 that NTIA allocated to New Jersey?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 36: Will you commit to preserving the \$675,372,311.86 that NTIA allocated to New Mexico?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 37: Will you commit to preserving the \$664,618,251.49 that NTIA allocated to New York?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 38: Will you commit to preserving the \$1,532,999,481.15 that NTIA allocated to North Carolina?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 39: Will you commit to preserving the \$130,162,815.12 that NTIA allocated to North Dakota?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 40: Will you commit to preserving the \$793,688,107.63 that NTIA allocated to Ohio?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 41: Will you commit to preserving the \$797,435,691.25 that NTIA allocated to Oklahoma?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 42: Will you commit to preserving the \$688,914,932.17 that NTIA allocated to Oregon?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 43: Will you commit to preserving the \$1,161,778,272.41 that NTIA allocated to Pennsylvania?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 44: Will you commit to preserving the \$334,614,151.70 that NTIA allocated to Puerto Rico?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 45: Will you commit to preserving the \$108,718,820.75 that NTIA allocated to Rhode Island?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 46: Will you commit to preserving the \$551,535,983.05 that NTIA allocated to South Carolina?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 47: Will you commit to preserving the \$207,227,523.92 that NTIA allocated to South Dakota?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 48: Will you commit to preserving the \$813,319,680.22 that NTIA allocated to Tennessee?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 49: Will you commit to preserving the \$3,312,616,455.45 that NTIA allocated to Texas?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 50: Will you commit to preserving the \$27,103,240.86 that NTIA allocated to the U.S. Virgin Islands?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 51: Will you commit to preserving the \$317,399,741.54 that NTIA allocated to Utah?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 52: Will you commit to preserving the \$228,913,019.08 that NTIA allocated to Vermont?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 53: Will you commit to preserving the \$1,481,489,572.87 that NTIA allocated to Virginia?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 54: Will you commit to preserving the \$1,210,800,969.85 that NTIA allocated to West Virginia?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 55: Will you commit to preserving the \$1,055,823,573.71 that NTIA allocated to Wisconsin?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 56: Will you commit to preserving the \$347,877,921.27 that NTIA allocated to Wyoming?

Answer: **If confirmed, I will work to release allocated funds to the states consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

BEAD technology requirements. While the BEAD statute allows states flexibility to serve extremely high-cost locations with alternative technology, the statute requires that the states

“prioritize funding” for “priority broadband projects.” The statute defines “priority broadband projects” as those that, among other things, “ensure that the network built by the project can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses; and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services.” At your confirmation hearing, Chair Cruz asserted that the BEAD program was intended to be tech neutral. In making this argument, however, Chair Cruz cited language from the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (the definition of a “Covered broadband project” as defined in Section 1705(a)(4) of Title 47 of the U.S. Code), which is not part of the BEAD program.

Question 1: Do you believe that low earth orbit (LEO) offerings that are available to consumers today “can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses; and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services?”

***Answer:* If confirmed, I will consult with NTIA’s engineers and attorneys to determine which specific products, services, and technologies meet the criteria in the law for “priority broadband project” per the IIJA.**

Question 2: Do you believe that a state which purchases service from a LEO satellite broadband provider is using BEAD funds to pay for “a network built by the project?”

***Answer:* If confirmed, I will consult with NTIA’s engineers and attorneys to determine which specific products, services, and technologies meet the criteria in the law for “priority broadband project” per the IIJA.**

Question 3: Do you agree that the definition of a “Covered broadband project” as defined in Section 1705(a)(4) of Title 47 of the U.S. Code applies to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, and is not relevant to the question of tech neutrality in the BEAD program?

***Answer:* While this particular definition applies to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, the BEAD program contains similar technology-neutral criteria to define “priority broadband project,” “unserved location,” and “underserved location,” and in defining minimum service requirements to receive a subgrant.**

BEAD BABA requirements. The IIJA included the Build America Buy America Act (BABA) says that when the government provides money for building things like roads and bridges, the materials used to build them should be made in the United States. This means things like iron, steel, products made in factories, and materials for construction need to come from the U.S. NTIA issued a partial waiver for BABA for the BEAD program that required that the vast majority of components used in the construction of BEAD funded networks be made in the United States.

Question 1: Do you believe it is important that BEAD funds should support U.S. manufacturing and U.S. jobs?

Answer: Yes.

Question 2: Do you intend to change or modify the BEAD BABA waiver?

Answer: If confirmed, I will do everything I can to support American workers, manufacturers, businesses, consumers, and taxpayers to deploy broadband expeditiously. I commit to looking into this issue if confirmed and I look forward to supporting the twin goals of speedy broadband deployment and an American manufacturing renaissance.

Question 3: Are you concerned that changes to the BEAD program, such as by reducing the amount of fiber deployed, could negatively impact investments made by U.S. companies in domestic manufacturing to support the program?

Answer: If confirmed, I will do everything I can to support American workers, manufacturers, businesses, consumers, and taxpayers to deploy broadband expeditiously. I commit to looking into this issue if confirmed and I look forward to supporting the twin goals of speedy broadband deployment and an American manufacturing renaissance.

Question 4: Are you concerned that changes to the BEAD program, such as by reducing the amount of fiber deployed, could result in job losses or work force reductions for U.S. companies that made investments in domestic manufacturing to support the program?

Answer: If confirmed, I will do everything I can to support American workers, manufacturers, businesses, consumers, and taxpayers to deploy broadband expeditiously. I commit to looking into this issue if confirmed and I look forward to supporting the twin goals of speedy broadband deployment and an American manufacturing renaissance.

Secretary Lutnick and BEAD Commitments. During his confirmation hearing before this Committee, now-Secretary Lutnick repeatedly failed to commit not to claw back funding for infrastructure programs under NTIA's jurisdiction, particularly the BEAD program. Now confirmed in that role, Secretary Lutnick has made alarming statements indicating he intends to overhaul the program and potentially delay states' work to connect homes to high-speed internet.

Question 1: Will you commit not to claw back funding for NTIA infrastructure programs, such as BEAD?

Answer: Connecting every American to broadband is my top priority, and I support using every dollar allocated in the BEAD program to doing just that. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA staff to expedite the BEAD program and get funding to the states, consistent with the law.

Question 2: If Secretary Lutnick's ongoing "review" of the BEAD program results in allocated funding being clawed back, will you oppose such efforts, if confirmed?

Answer: **Connecting every American to broadband is my top priority, and I support using every dollar allocated in the BEAD program to doing just that. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA staff to expedite the BEAD program and get allocated funding to the states, consistent with the law.**

Question 3: Have you discussed the “review” of the BEAD program with Secretary Lutnick? If so, please detail the nature of these conversations and when they took place.

Answer: **No.**

Secretary Lutnick and Congressional Testimony. During his confirmation hearing, now-Secretary Lutnick testified that he would not support the dismantling of the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA). Despite this clear testimony, the DOC, under Secretary Lutnick’s leadership, appears to be actively dismantling the MBDA.

Question 1: Will you adhere to the commitments and statements you make to this Committee regarding the fulfillment of your duties and responsibilities in this post, if confirmed?

Answer: **Yes.**

Question 2: During your hearing, you testified that you would “follow the law.” Do you agree that providing untruthful testimony to Congress violates the law?

Answer: **Yes.**

Secretary Lutnick and Tesla. During an appearance on “Jesse Watters Primetime” on March 19, 2025, Secretary Lutnick urged people to “buy Tesla” stock and said, “anybody that doesn’t buy a Tesla robot is going to be silly.” As you know, federal officers are generally prohibited from using their public office for the endorsement of any product, service, or enterprise. Federal officers are also generally prohibited from using their position to imply the government sanctions or endorses another individual’s personal activities.

Question 1: Do you think Secretary’s Lutnick’s comments urging people to purchase Tesla stock or a Tesla product were appropriate?

Answer: **I am not familiar with Secretary Lutnick’s comments, and I look forward to performing the responsibilities of NTIA administrator if I am fortunate enough to be confirmed.**

Question 2: If confirmed, will you commit to not use your public office to promote or otherwise endorse Elon Musk’s products or services, such as Starlink, or the products or services of any other Trump Administration official?

Answer: **Yes.**

Tribal Connectivity. NTIA oversees the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, which Congress appropriated \$3 billion to support Tribal governments for deployment projects, telehealth, and online education opportunities. Roughly \$1 billion in funding for this program is currently frozen.

Question 1: Yes or no, will you commit to completing the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program as it currently exists?

Answer: If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program.

Question 2: Yes or no, will you continue to proceed with Round 2 of the Program, which is already in progress, and allow it to continue?

Answer: If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program.

Broadband Infrastructure and Tribal Coordination. Through the broadband deployment projects it oversees, NTIA must prioritize strong coordination with Tribal communities in order to ensure that locations located on Tribal lands are connected.

Question 1: Yes or no, do you agree that the Federal government must recognize Tribal sovereignty?

Answer: I agree with your statement on the importance of coordination with Tribal communities. If confirmed, I would not be in a position to speak for the entire Federal government on the broad topic of Tribal sovereignty.

Question 2: Yes or no, do you agree that it is the role of the Federal government, and in particular NTIA, to coordinate with Tribal governments on matters of broadband deployment that impacts Tribal lands and families?

Answer: Yes, to the extent the coordination involves NTIA responsibilities.

Question 3: Yes or no, will you commit to upholding requirements for states and internet service providers participating in BEAD to consult with Tribal governments on broadband deployment to locations on Tribal lands?

Answer: I commit to upholding statutory requirements for NTIA with respect to Tribal governments and Tribal lands.

Question 4: Yes or no, will you continue to abide by the NTIA-FCC-Department of the Interior Tribal Spectrum memorandum of understanding (MOU)?

Answer: If confirmed, I commit to reviewing this matter, and upholding NTIA's statutory requirements.

Middle Mile Infrastructure Program. To date, NTIA has awarded nearly \$980 million across 40 states and territories through the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program. This Program funds projects to deploy future-proof fiber over nearly 12,500 miles, connecting over 7,000 anchor institutions.

Question 1: Will you commit to completing the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program as it currently exists?

Answer: If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program.

Question 2: Will you commit to working expeditiously to ensure that funded projects are able to proceed to deploy fiber across the country?

Answer: If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program.

Innovation Fund. Authorized under the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act and funded through the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022, the Public Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Fund is a 10-year, \$1.5 billion grant program will help drive wireless innovation, foster competition, and strengthen supply chain resilience. Around \$814 million remains unobligated. President Trump has recently called to roll back the CHIPS and Science Act, which funded this program.

Question 1: Do you support the current funding opportunities announced and underway?

Answer: I will uphold the law as enacted.

Question 2: Will you commit to implementing these programs and to complete open funding rounds?

Answer: If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Public Wireless Supply Chain Innovation Fund.

National Spectrum Strategy. In November 2023, the Biden Administration released the National Spectrum Strategy (NSS) that identifies over 2,700 megahertz of spectrum across five bands for study to determine the possibility of new, commercial uses. The NSS includes over 1,600 megahertz of midband spectrum, a range in high demand for next-generation wireless services. In the 118th Congress I led the effort to codify the NSS and a MOU between the FCC and NTIA on spectrum coordination—the Spectrum and National Security Act. The final version of this legislation reflected a negotiated agreement between the DOC, DoD, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff that preserved our national security, protected Federal incumbents, and advanced studies which would create a sustainable spectrum pipeline.

Question 1: Do you believe that the United States needs a national spectrum strategy?

Answer: **Yes.**

Question 2: Will you stand by the negotiated agreement between the DOC, DoD, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff?

Answer: **I was not part of the negotiated agreement between the DOC, DoD, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. However, if confirmed, I commit to reviewing it and obtain any classified briefings necessary for purposes of advising the Trump administration on this negotiated agreement among Biden administration officials.**

Question 3: What changes do you anticipate making to either the NSS or MOU between the FCC and NTIA?

Answer: **If confirmed, I commit to review both the NSS and MOU and get any needed classified briefing to determine if there should be any modification to agreements and strategy documents negotiated by the Biden administration.**

Question 4: Will you commit to adhering to the Memorandum on Modernizing United States Spectrum Policy and establishing a national spectrum strategy?

Answer: **If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements. As I testified, spectrum will be a top priority of mine.**

Spectrum Pipeline Act. Ms. Roth, Chair Cruz introduced the Spectrum Pipeline Act last year, which would have required NTIA to identify 2500 megahertz of federal spectrum for reallocation and auction. I understand you worked on this bill.

That bill did not require that national security or public safety be protected, nor did it require that any studies occur before the spectrum be auctioned.

Question 1: Can you elaborate on why you believe requiring this spectrum reallocation without the results of any studies does not risk U.S. national security interests?

Answer: **I support protecting national security and public safety. If enacted, the Spectrum Pipeline Act would require NTIA to identify a certain quantity of spectrum for reallocation. In order to make this identification, consistent with current practice, NTIA would first conduct studies and consult with other federal agencies to protect their critical missions.**

International Spectrum Leadership. NTIA is tasked with representing the United States' spectrum interests internationally. We have seen China's growth in spectrum use not only threaten the U.S. economically, but China also raises national security concerns. U.S. representation at the International Telecommunications Union and World Radio Conference are important fora to advance American interests in spectrum management and combat national security threats from China.

Question 1: Will you commit to representing U.S. spectrum interests on the international stage to address concerns about China's spectrum use?

Answer: **Yes.**

Question 2: Do you support a modernized approach on federal spectrum policy that protects our communications networks against foreign adversaries?

Answer: **Yes.**

FirstNet. Congress established FirstNet as an independent authority within NTIA, which was tasked with managing and overseeing the implementation and execution of agreements to build, deploy, and operate a new nationwide broadband network dedicated for public safety use. FirstNet's statutory authority to operate expires in 2027 and will be a question for Congress and this Committee to consider.

Question 1: How do you view the role of NTIA in managing and overseeing the FirstNet Authority?

Answer: **FirstNet is overseen by a board and has a unique position within the Department of Commerce. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that FirstNet delivers on the promise of enhancing public safety communications and is subject to appropriate oversight.**

Question 2: If confirmed, how will you address recommendations from the Inspector General contained in three audit reports and one management alert released in 2024?

Answer: **I take Inspector General recommendations seriously, and I look forward to reviewing those pertaining to FirstNet if confirmed.**

Question 3: If confirmed, would you commit to brief Committee members about the FirstNet contract and provisions, so that the Committee can better understand the relationship between AT&T and FirstNet in advance of the expiration of FirstNet authorization in 2027?

Answer: **Yes.**

Spectrum Interference. At the March 27, 2025, Commerce Committee hearing with the National Transportation Safety Board, we heard that the Secret Service and U.S. Navy operated a spectrum jamming system that interfered with the terrain avoidance systems on aircraft landing at DCA. Several aircraft that were jammed received false warnings to take emergency action while landing – putting more people at risk.

Question 1: How would you ensure that federal agencies properly coordinate to prevent this kind of extremely dangerous activity from happening in the future? What specific steps would take to address this issue?

Answer: **Coordination among federal agencies on the use of spectrum is critical for public safety. If confirmed, I will get briefings on this event that Chairman Cruz raised, and that the Acting FAA administrator confirmed, and will work with other federal agencies to coordinate federal spectrum use, consistent with NTIA's statutory role.**

Question 2: You have advocated for making vast amounts of federal spectrum available for private sector use. How can we be sure that the federal government can coordinate these kinds of complex activities with the private sector when it seems like this Administration is already struggling to coordinate within the government?

Answer: **If confirmed, I look forward to working with the FCC and other federal agencies to coordinate federal and non-federal use of spectrum, consistent with NTIA's statutory role. I will work to not only maintain but, where possible, improve NTIA's coordinating relationship with all federal agencies to protect critical federal missions.**

Question 3: If confirmed, will you commit to brief this Committee on the jamming incidents at DCA and any other jamming activity near U.S. airports or that would put the public at risk?

Answer: **Yes, if confirmed I will get briefings on this event and will brief the Committee on what I learn.**

Question 4: Do you believe that the FCC should have taken into account concerns about aviation safety from the FAA regarding 5G interference to airplane altimeters as part of the C-Band auction? Going forward how would you prevent a similar situations from occurring that could put aviation safety, national security, or public safety at risk?

Answer: **I agree that the FCC should take into account all harmful interference concerns presented, including those about aviation safety, before making a decision. If confirmed, I will uphold NTIA's statutory role in representing the view of the executive branch on spectrum matters before the FCC, including by maintaining clear and frequent channels of communication with the FCC.**

Question 5: What role do you believe NTIA has in coordinating with the FCC on spectrum related items before the Commission that involves commercial spectrum, but where there is a federal interest or equity? What do you think the FCC's responsibility is to take NTIA's concerns into account in these proceedings?

Answer: **NTIA is responsible for communicating the position of executive branch agencies on spectrum matters before the FCC. The FCC is responsible for managing and licensing non-federal spectrum, consistent with its statutory requirements.**

Conflicts of Interest – Starlink. Elon Musk is the founder and CEO of Starlink and the richest man in the world. He is also playing a leading role in the Trump White House and the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). I have serious concerns about the alarming

conflicts of interest that appear to be mounting between Mr. Musk and the Trump Administration.

Question 1: Ms. Roth, you are a lawyer. Do you agree there would be at least the *appearance* of a conflict of interest if the DOC changed the BEAD program and additional funds were directed to Musk's Starlink as a result?

***Answer:* If confirmed, I commit to act impartially in carrying out the BEAD program, consistent with the IIJA as enacted.**

Question 2: If confirmed, what specific actions above and beyond the minimum requirements will you take to give Americans confidence there are no conflicts of interest in the BEAD program and Musk's Starlink?

***Answer:* If confirmed, I commit to acting impartially in carrying out the BEAD program, consistent with the IIJA as enacted.**

Question 3: Do you think it's appropriate to consign hardworking families in rural and Tribal communities to worse service that is more expensive, while Mr. Musk benefits financially?

***Answer:* No, this would be a bad outcome. If confirmed, I will work to deliver the best broadband service possible to all Americans, consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.**

Question 4: Have you ever met, been on a call, or otherwise interacted with Elon Musk? If so, please detail each such instance, including the date and topic of the engagement.

***Answer:* No.**

Question 5: Have you ever discussed Elon Musk's perspective on the BEAD program with anyone associated with SpaceX or the Trump Administration? If so, please detail each such instance, including the date, individuals involved, and perspectives conveyed.

***Answer:* As the telecommunications policy director for Chairman Cruz on the Senate Commerce Committee, I have taken meetings with numerous stakeholders, including SpaceX, on the implementation of the BEAD program. In the course of those meetings, Mr. Musk's perspective on the BEAD program was never discussed.**

Tariffs and Effect on BEAD. President Trump's tariffs are driving up the cost of living for consumers and causing uncertainty for American businesses. As you know, communications service providers depend on a global supply chain for their network components. A recent Price Waterhouse Coopers study found that proposed tariffs could raise costs in the telecommunications and technology sectors by \$126 billion.

Question 1: Yes or no. Do you agree that this administration's proposed tariffs will increase the cost to deploy these networks as well increase the cost consumers will pay for high-speed internet?

Answer: **I am committed to carrying out the BEAD program in an expeditious, efficient, and effective manner. As I am the NTIA nominee and not being considered for a Senate-confirmed position on trade policy, I am not in a position to speculate on this issue.**

Question 2: If confirmed, you would be the President's principal advisor on telecommunications policy. How would you advise the President about this important issue?

Answer: **I would want to confer with experts at NTIA before advising the President on this issue.**

Digital Equity Grants. Congress intended to not only establish a once-in-a-generation investment in broadband infrastructure, but also to ensure individuals and communities have the skills necessary to take advantage of the digital opportunities created by high-speed internet connectivity. One example is how the State of Washington is developing a cybersecurity literacy program to ensure Washingtonians have the necessary skills to protect themselves from cyber criminals.

Question 1: Will you commit to fully and swiftly implementing the Digital Equity Act and its focus on all of the core targets identified in the statute, including rural Americans, seniors, and veterans?

Answer: **If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Digital Equity Act.**

Question 2: Can you commit not to leave any of the statutory "covered populations" outlined in the Digital Equity Act behind and implement the Act fully, as intended by Congress?

Answer: **If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Digital Equity Act.**

Question 1: If the president ordered you to do something illegal, would you refuse?

Answer: **I would not violate the law, and I do not believe the president would ever ask me to do so.**

Question 2: Do you believe the Executive Branch must comply with lawful court orders?

Answer: **Yes.**

Department of Government Efficiency. In March 2016, you wrote an article titled, "How the FCC Betrayed America's Faith in the Rule of Law" in which you asserted: "We Americans generally have faith that our government operates according to legal authority and predictable

rules. If a government-authorized camera records our car exceeding a speed limit, we pay the penalty because we have faith that proper procedures were followed. Our faith is tested when a government agency is found to have operated outside of the rule of law.” A federal court has ruled that DOGE likely acted in violation of the U.S. Constitution “in multiple ways.”

Question 1: Given the views expressed in your March 2016 article and the federal court ruling that DOGE is likely violating the U.S. Constitution, do you agree that Americans should not have faith in the actions taken by DOGE? Why or why not?

***Answer:* I have been nominated to NTIA and have been focused on NTIA’s mission and responsibilities, not the work of DOGE.**

Question 2: If confirmed, will you permit DOGE to access to the NTIA’s records, systems, and data, including those related to the BEAD program?

***Answer:* If confirmed, I will comply with all records, systems, and data requirements, including those related to the BEAD program.**

Question 3: If DOGE recommended a reduction-in-force at NTIA, would you refuse to carry one out, if confirmed?

***Answer:* NTIA has many talented career staff, some of whom I’ve had the privilege to work with. As I have not yet been confirmed, it would be inappropriate for me to opine on the staffing needs of the agency.**

Independent Agencies. In the same March 2016 article, you also were critical of President Obama, claiming he had “undermined any pretense of independence at the FCC” when he posted a speech on YouTube discussing the regulation of broadband service providers. You also asserted “[i]t is incumbent on our government to do better in following basic administrative law and affirming the autonomy of independent agencies.”

Question 1: Given these past statements, aren’t you concerned by the Trump Administration’s unprecedented actions to undermine independent agencies like the FCC? If not, please explain why your position has changed since March 2016.

***Answer:* I have been nominated to NTIA, which is part of the executive branch and not an independent agency. As such, I have been focused on NTIA’s mission and responsibilities, not those of the FCC.**

First Amendment. You worked at the FCC as a legal advisor to Commissioner Mike O’Rielly. As you know, his nomination was withdrawn by President Trump in August 2020, five days after he gave a speech to the Media Institute, in which he said: “The First Amendment protects us from limits on speech imposed by the government—not private actors—and we should all reject demands, in the name of the First Amendment, for private actors to curate or publish speech in a certain way. Like it or not, the First Amendment’s protections apply to corporate entities,

especially when they engage in editorial decision making. I shudder to think of a day in which the Fairness Doctrine could be reincarnated for the Internet, especially at the ironic behest of so-called free speech ‘defenders.’ It is time to stop allowing purveyors of First Amendment gibberish to claim they support more speech, when their actions make clear that they would actually curtail it through government action. These individuals demean and denigrate the values of our Constitution and must be held accountable for their doublespeak and dishonesty. This institution and its members have long been unwavering in defending the First Amendment, and it is the duty of each of us to continue to uphold this precious protection.”

Question 1: Do you agree with Commissioner O’Rielly’s statement about what the First Amendment means?

Answer: **I support upholding the First Amendment. I agree that corporate entities have First Amendment rights, the extent and breadth of which depends on the context.**

Border Gateway Protocol. Ms. Roth, the Office of the National Cyber Director released the Roadmap to Enhancing Internet Routing Security in September of 2024. Among the recommendations in the report were enhancements to internet routing security and in particular, enhancements to the Border Gateway Protocol (BGP).

Question 1: Ms. Roth, if confirmed would you commit to working with the interagency to enhance internet routing security, and addressing vulnerabilities to BGP?

Answer: **If confirmed, I look forward to studying the roadmap you reference and consulting with NTIA’s career staff on addressing such vulnerabilities.**

Question 2: Ms. Roth, do you think it’s important for federal agencies to use Route Origin Authorizations (ROA)? Do you think commercial websites should use ROAs? Please explain the importance of ROAs in preventing BGP hijacking.

Answer: **If confirmed, I look forward to studying this issue closely and consulting with NTIA’s career staff on this topic.**

Management Experience. Ms. Roth, NTIA is a large agency with complex programs. A key part of the position to which you are nominated is being a leader and convener who builds consensus among diverse viewpoints. I’d like to hear a bit more about your relevant management experience.

Question 1: Please detail an example of a complex project you managed successfully and explain how that experience positions you to succeed leading NTIA, if confirmed.

Answer: **Managing a household of seven and raising five young children while working full-time in a high-pressure position has been a complex project. It has also taught me about managing different personalities and needs, which I believe will serve me well in leading NTIA if confirmed. In the government context, I am also accustomed to working on**

complex projects and building consensus among diverse viewpoints. For example, I manage staff on a daily basis as the head of telecommunications policy for the Majority. And at the Federal Communications Commission, I worked in the front office of the Wireline Competition Bureau and was responsible for ensuring career staff, including attorneys, economists, and engineers, as well as staff in the commissioners' offices could all share their perspective and agree on how to resolve difficult issues.

Question 2: Please provide an example where you built consensus among diverse viewpoints to achieve a beneficial outcome.

Answer: **To pass the Blunt-Wyden Low Power Protection Act (PL 117-344), I worked to build consensus among diverse viewpoints of stakeholders in the telecom industry that have not traditionally been aligned. These efforts paid off, as the bill was signed into law in January 2023.**

Question 3: What's the largest team you have managed? How many people reported to you?

Answer: **As Chairman Cruz's Policy Director for Telecommunications on Senate Commerce, I manage a team of five staff. As a legal advisor in the Wireline Competition Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission, I was responsible for building consensus and ensuring timely delivery of work across 155 full-time employees.**

Question 4: Have you ever hired someone? If so, how many people?

Answer: **Yes. In my career on the Hill, I have been involved in the hiring decisions for numerous persons.**

Question 5: Have you ever fired someone? If so, how many people?

Answer: **Fortunately, I have never needed to fire anyone.**

Cyber Security. Ms. Roth, the United States has been under increasing cyber-attacks by hostile foreign powers, notably China and Russia. Last year, Chinese hackers as part of the Salt Typhoon attack, hacked into U.S. telecom networks and monitored phone calls and text messages, targeting prominent figures including J.D. Vance.

Question 1: If confirmed you will be the President's lead advisor on telecommunications policy. What is NTIA's role in mitigating attacks like Salt Typhoon, and what should NTIA do to help prevent future attacks?

Answer: **Salt Typhoon was a massive penetration of our country's communications networks, and it is important to plug any vulnerabilities to prevent future attacks. Although NTIA does not have regulatory authority, it can play a key role in policy development, advocacy, and information sharing with respect to cybersecurity. NTIA can**

also help mitigate future attacks through its work on supply chain security and working with other agencies that develop cybersecurity standards and best practices.

Question 2: What steps can U.S. telecommunication providers take to harden their networks to make them more resistant to cyber-attacks in the future?

Answer: **Salt Typhoon was a massive penetration of our country's communications networks, and it is important to plug any vulnerabilities to prevent future attacks. If confirmed, I look forward to working with NTIA's staff and other federal agencies to develop and promote standards and best practices for cybersecurity.**

Question 3: How can NTIA enable the use of non-deployment funds from the BEAD program, funds from the Digital Equity program capacity and competitive programs, and the Tribal Broadband Connectivity program to enhance cyber security skills to make our companies and communities more resistant and resilient to these types of attacks?

Answer: **If confirmed, I look forward to consulting with NTIA's career staff to determine what authorities NTIA has under the law to promote cybersecurity through these programs.**

SENATOR BRIAN SCHATZ (D-HI)

The Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program (“Middle Mile”) is enabling Hawaii to expand broadband infrastructure between islands and across the state. The uninterrupted continuation of projects funded by Middle Mile is critical to enhancing support for critical infrastructure sectors—including defense, transportation, energy, and telecommunications, among others—on time and efficiently.

1. Will you commit to continued support for the Middle Mile program, including ensuring the timely distribution of funds and communications to project sponsors?

If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA’s statutory requirements, including with respect to the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program.

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program represents a historic investment in broadband access, including for Hawaii, which will see a total of \$149.5 million under this program. Earlier this month, Department of Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick announced that the agency will review the BEAD program with the intention of potentially reforming certain requirements.

2. What changes do you believe need to be made to the BEAD program under your leadership?
3. What metrics will you apply to assess the effectiveness of the BEAD program?
4. Will you commit to ensuring that any potential modifications to the BEAD program will not impact state planning work, including forcing states to re-do work that has already been completed at this stage?
5. Will you commit to ensuring that potential modifications to the BEAD program will not delay state project timelines?

Connecting every American to broadband is my top priority. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA staff to expedite the BEAD program, get funding to the states, and expand broadband buildout, consistent with the law. The best metric of BEAD’s effectiveness is its record of expeditiously increasing broadband access in unserved communities. If confirmed, I look forward to working with NTIA’s career staff and state broadband offices to cut red tape and unnecessary bureaucracy, to avoid further delays and minimize work for states, consistent with the law.

In Department of Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick’s announcement regarding review of the BEAD program, he stated the agency’s interest in cutting “...government red tape that slows down infrastructure construction.” To that end, NTIA’s waiver authority could be a tool used in addressing the streamlining of certain approvals.

6. How do you view the NTIA’s waiver authority, and in what circumstances would you feel it is appropriate to exercise this authority with regard to the BEAD program?

I agree that issuing waivers where appropriate can be a tool in streamlining the BEAD program and speeding the deployment of broadband to Americans—the ultimate goal of

the program. Although the appropriate circumstances for issuing a waiver depends on the specific context, as a general matter, I would look favorably on waivers that would speed the deployment of broadband consistent with the law. If confirmed, I look forward to consulting with NTIA's career staff and legal counsel on this issue.

At the state level, we understand that some documentation requirements could have an opportunity for streamlining. For example, deployment requirements related to Letters of Credit for contractors may not be appropriate in all situations, and updated guidance along these lines could be helpful to increase the speed of deployment and potentially reduce costs. For example, Letters of Credit may not always be most effective in ensuring security due to funding being reimbursable rather than provided in advance, and can make it harder for smaller companies to compete.

7. Will you commit to working with states to address and integrate feedback for Letter of Credit guidance?

Yes, I look forward to working with states on this issue if confirmed.

It is critical that the United States continues to uphold its trust responsibility to Tribal and Native communities.

8. Please provide a description of your understanding of the federal trust responsibility to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, and how that necessitates continuance of programs that directly and indirectly serve these communities.
9. As NTIA Director, will you commit to upholding this trust responsibility?
10. If confirmed, will you commit to maintaining the Tribal Consent requirements under the BEAD program as a necessary condition of state awards if projects implicate Tribal lands?
11. Will you commit to maintaining the Tribal Advisory Committee at NTIA?

I commit to upholding statutory requirements for NTIA with respect to Tribal and Native communities and the United States' trust responsibilities. I welcome the opportunity to work with your office on the issue of NTIA's trust responsibility to Tribal and Native communities, so I can learn more about these issues. If confirmed, I commit to working with NTIA's staff on issues regarding the Tribal Advisory Committee and do not intend or plan to dissolve the committee.

Many Tribes awarded 2.5 GHz spectra under the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rural priority window over 4 years ago are under tight buildout and service deadlines that must be met to keep these licenses. NTIA's TBCP Round 2 awards are one of the sole sources of funds directly available to Tribes to build the networks and services needed to meet these deadlines and close the digital divide. I am concerned that Tribes could lose these licenses if any awards you will oversee are delayed or clawed back.

12. Will you commit to getting TBCP Round 2 awards out the door and prevent the fraud, waste, and abuse that will certainly happen if these awards are delayed?

13. Will you commit to proactively engaging with the FCC to make the connection between these two programs and ensuring that timelines for TBCP Round 2 funds do not negatively impact corresponding timelines for recipients under the 2.5 GHz Rural Tribal Program?

If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, and coordinating with the FCC in a timely manner.

On December 5, 2024, the Department of Commerce Office of the Inspector General released a report which included 11 recommendations to NTIA for improvising FirstNet Authority's management of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network. At the time, NTIA had concurred with all 11 recommendations.

14. Will you commit to the expeditious and complete implementation of the 11 recommendations outlined in the report?
15. Will you commit to ensuring that FirstNet continues its progress toward ensuring that the unique disaster planning needs of non-contiguous states, including Hawaii, are addressed?

If confirmed, I will work with the Inspector General to ensure that FirstNet is subject to appropriate oversight and proper management. I will also work to ensure FirstNet delivers on the promise of enhancing public safety communications throughout the country, including in non-contiguous states like Hawaii.

The NTIA played a critical role to work with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to ensure their continued use of the 24 GHz band to monitor water vapor. Simply put, this band allows observers like NOAA, NASA, and their contractors to determine the amount of water vapor in the atmosphere—which increases the reliability of weather forecasts.

16. What are your plans to work with NOAA, NASA, and other government agencies to preserve their specific spectrum needs?

If confirmed, I will work with all federal agencies to ensure that their spectrum needs are addressed. I will work to not only maintain but, where possible, improve NTIA's coordinating relationship with all federal agencies, including NOAA and NASA, to protect critical federal missions.

Unlicensed spectrum usage and the availability of Wi-Fi play critical roles in enabling innovation and connectivity.

17. As NTIA Director, how will you factor the value of Wi-Fi when evaluating spectrum management decisions?

I agree that unlicensed spectrum usage and Wi-Fi play critical roles in enabling innovation and connectivity. However, power levels and licensing rules for commercial spectrum are generally decisions within the FCC's domain, not NTIA's.

SENATOR EDWARD MARKEY (D-MA)

Artificial Intelligence:

1. From AI accountability to data center growth to auditing for trustworthy AI systems, NTIA has been investigating and providing recommendations on some of the most complicated issues to ensure that AI innovation does not come at the expense of our trust, safety, and environment. If confirmed, what are your plans to address issues related to emerging technologies and artificial intelligence?

AI is becoming an increasingly important part of the internet economy. While AI has the potential to deliver tremendous benefits to consumers, it also comes with risks. If confirmed, I will work to ensure that we lead the world on AI, and harness AI to promote economic competitiveness, national security, and human flourishing.

2. In September 2024, NTIA released a request for comments on U.S. data center growth to meet the demand from artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies. If confirmed, what is your plan for NTIA to address the electricity demand for U.S. data center growth?

I agree that AI has resulted in greater demand on data centers. It is unclear to me what, if any, authority NTIA has over electricity demand, but if confirmed, I welcome the opportunity to work with NTIA's staff and your office on this important issue.

3. NTIA recently released a report noting the benefits of open-source AI and has also concluded that the federal government should invest in monitoring and testing AI for harms. Do you agree with these recommendations?

I have not had an opportunity to familiarize myself with this report but I look forward to reviewing it and hearing from career staff at NTIA on how they came to their recommendations.

4. In March 2024, NTIA released an extensive report on AI accountability, risk, and trustworthiness. The report provided guidance and multiple recommendations for the federal government on how to ensure the growth of an artificial intelligence accountability framework and to address risks. Do you support this guidance and these recommendations?

I have not had an opportunity to familiarize myself with this report but I look forward to reviewing it and hearing from career staff at NTIA on how they came to their guidance and recommendations.

Algorithmic Discrimination:

5. Do you believe that bias and discriminatory artificial intelligence is a problem?

Yes.

6. If confirmed, what is your plan to address biased and discriminatory artificial intelligence, especially in critical areas such as health care, education, employment, and criminal justice?

If confirmed, I will work to ensure that we harness AI to promote human flourishing for all Americans.

7. What guardrails should there be for the federal government's use of AI tools and other technologies, and what is NTIA's role in the development of such guardrails?

As I have been nominated to NTIA, I cannot speak to the use of AI tools and technologies across other government agencies. If confirmed, I would consult with the expert staff at NTIA and legal counsel on NTIA's role on this matter.

8. Do you believe that a company has an obligation to test, address, or measure its algorithms before deployment in order to determine whether it discriminates or is biased against protected characteristics?

This is not an issue that I have previously delved into. If confirmed, I would be honored to work with your office to learn more.

9. Do you believe that a company has an obligation to monitor its algorithms after deployment in order to determine whether it discriminates based on protected characteristics?

This is not an issue that I have previously delved into. If confirmed, I would be honored to work with your office to learn more.

10. Do you support the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy's Blueprint for an AI Bills of Rights?

I have not had an opportunity to review the Blueprint but look forward to looking into it.

Closing the Digital Divide:

11. Do you support closing the digital divide for low-income people?

Yes.

12. Do you support closing the digital divide for elderly individuals?

Yes.

13. Do you support closing the digital divide for incarcerated individuals?

Yes.

14. Do you support closing the digital divide for veterans?

Yes.

15. Do you support closing the digital divide for individuals with disabilities?

Yes.

16. Do you support closing the digital divide for individuals with a language barrier?

Yes.

17. Do you support closing the digital divide for individuals who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group?

Yes.

18. Do you support closing the digital divide for people who primarily reside in a rural area?

Yes.

19. If confirmed, what is your plan to close the digital divide in our country?

Congress has directed NTIA to play a role in promoting broadband affordability by administering broadband programs like BEAD. NTIA can also help to reduce unnecessary permitting burdens that can increase the cost of providing broadband and expand commercial spectrum access, which in turn increases both mobile and broadband competition, driving down costs for consumers.

If confirmed, I will work to implement NTIA's broadband funding programs consistent with the law and expand spectrum access consistent with national security and the needs of other federal agencies.

20. If confirmed, what is your plan to close the digital divide for Indigenous people?

If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program and other broadband funding programs, and will work to expand spectrum access consistent with national security and the needs of other federal agencies.

21. If confirmed, what is your plan to close the digital divide for students?

If confirmed, I will work to implement NTIA's broadband funding programs consistent with the law and expand spectrum access consistent with national security and the needs of other federal agencies.

Digital Equity Act

22. Do you believe that the Digital Equity Act is constitutional?

Making sure Americans have the resources and skills they need to participate in the digital economy was part of the IIJA and I will follow the law.

If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Digital Equity Act.

I would defer to the Department of Justice on constitutional matters.

23. Will you commit to ensuring the projects already recommended for a Digital Equity Act award can move forward and begin their work to ensure residents in their communities can get and stay connected to the internet safely?

Making sure Americans have the resources and skills they need to participate in the digital economy was part of the IIJA and I will follow the law.

Free Speech and Technology:

24. Do you believe it is constitutional to ban children and/or teens from social media?

I would defer to the Department of Justice on this constitutional matter. As the nominee to head NTIA, this is not an issue that I would see within my remit.

25. Do you believe that a social media platform's algorithmic ranking of content constitutes the speech of the platform?

I would defer to the Department of Justice on this constitutional matter. As the nominee to head NTIA, this is not an issue that I would see within my remit.

26. Do you believe that a social media platform's content moderation decisions constitute the speech of the platform?

I would defer to the Department of Justice on this constitutional matter. As the nominee to head NTIA, this is not an issue that I would see within my remit.

27. Do you believe that private communications between employees of the federal government and social media platforms related to content moderation decisions or rules and the algorithmic ranking of content can violate the rights of the platform's users? If so, please describe the circumstances and/or conditions under which those communications would be unconstitutional?

I would defer to the Department of Justice on this constitutional matter. As the nominee to head NTIA, this is not an issue that I would see within my remit.

28. Do you believe that formal actions by federal agencies to investigate the content moderation decisions or rules or algorithmic ranking of content on social media platforms could be unconstitutional? If so, please describe the circumstances and/or conditions under which those actions would be unconstitutional?

I would defer to the Department of Justice on this constitutional matter. As the nominee to head NTIA, this is not an issue that I would see within my remit.

29. Do you support the repeal of Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act?

That is a matter for Congress to decide. If confirmed, I will abide by the law.

30. Do you believe that the Federal Communications Commission has authority to issue interpretative guidance or conduct a rulemaking interpreting on Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act?

This is a question that would be more appropriately addressed to the FCC, not the NTIA nominee.

SENATOR GARY PETERS (D-MI)

A key part of NTIA's role is coordinating and advocating on federal spectrum use. This goes beyond just key national security uses at the Department of Defense – other agencies retain certain bands for public safety applications that must be protected. One such band is 5.9, also known as Auto Safety Spectrum, which is overseen by the Department of Transportation.

This band allows for the deployment of safety technologies including cellular vehicle-to-everything technology that enables collision avoidance, faster emergency response times, school bus alerts, freight efficiency improvement, and more. In 2020, some of this spectrum was allocated away from these safety purposes, which will reduce roadway safety long term. That can't happen again.

1. If confirmed, will you commit to protecting the remaining auto safety spectrum for roadway safety innovation like cellular vehicle-to-everything technology?

If confirmed, I pledge to work with all federal agencies on their use of spectrum, including the Department of Transportation, to protect public safety.

Michigan's High Speed Internet Office, also known as "Mi-Hi," has been one of the most effective state offices in carrying out the BEAD program – beginning from a highly successful mapping and comprehensive challenge process. They are on the cusp of closing their subgrantee process wherein they will identify the companies who will build out broadband connecting every single Michigander to reliable internet.

2. Will you commit to meeting with "Mi-Hi" to understand my state's needs if you are confirmed?

Yes.

As you know, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law authorized over \$48 billion in total funding for NTIA's programs expanding broadband access. Aside from the BEAD program, Michigan has already been awarded \$61 million through the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program and \$38.7 million in expected funding through the Digital Equity Act. Applicants for the DEA Competitive Grant have submitted strong proposals that will increase economic opportunity in low-income communities – like Human I-T's repurposing of used technology and Life Remodeled's construction of Opportunity Hubs for Detroiters – but the review process has been stalled.

3. If confirmed, will you commit to releasing the full amount of these congressionally-approved funds?

If confirmed, I will work to release congressionally authorized funds to all states, including Michigan, consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

SENATOR TAMMY BALDWIN (D-WI)

1. Describe any proactive approach you will take at NTIA to support American workers, manufacturers, and businesses, including through broadband infrastructure implementation?

If confirmed, I will do everything I can to support American workers, manufacturers, businesses, consumers, and taxpayers to deploy broadband expeditiously. I commit to looking into this issue if confirmed and I look forward to supporting the twin goals of speedy broadband deployment and an American manufacturing renaissance.

2. The Digital Equity Act Program, created in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was established to ensure every American can have the skills and technology needed to participate in today's digital economy. In January 2025, NTIA recommended 65 projects across the country for competitive grant awards, including two for Wisconsin.

The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee was recommended an award of nearly \$10 million to improve accessibility to computers for youth, provide technical training for students, establish adult digital literacy classes, and more. The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee has yet to receive those funds, and my office's attempts to receive more information from NTIA have been stonewalled.

If confirmed, will you commit to ensuring these committed dollars get out the door without additional delay?

If confirmed, I will work to expeditiously release congressionally authorized funds to all states, including Wisconsin, consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

SENATOR JACKY ROSEN (D-NV)

1. **Digital Equity Competitive Grant**: Clark County, Nevada, is poised to receive \$10.7 million through the Digital Equity Act Competitive Grant program for a comprehensive project that will provide critical job-related digital skills training, particularly for underserved communities, youth, and small business owners. This investment will directly translate to economic opportunities for Clark County residents and businesses.
 - a. Will you commit to preserving and fully implementing programs created under the Digital Equity Act, ensuring that communities like Clark County can continue to benefit from these vital resources that help small businesses and seniors?
 - b. Would you consider projects that teach seniors digital skills, like how to avoid common scams online, an important use of funds under this program?
 - c. Would you consider projects that teach small businesses how to set up websites and engage on e-commerce an important use of funds under this program?
 - d. Would you consider projects that teach AI skills, like how to use AI tools safely and how to spot AI deepfakes, an important use of funds under this program?

These are all relevant and important skills for seniors, small businesses, and others to develop in the 21st century. I also appreciate your voice and position on this topic given your experience in computer programming. Making sure Americans have the resources and skills they need to participate in the digital economy was part of the IIJA and I will follow the law. If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Digital Equity Act.

2. **National Spectrum Strategy Implementation**: NTIA is supposed to be the arm of the Executive Branch, that coordinates spectrum for use by the Federal government, including the military. NTIA's work is critical because it seeks to ensure the most efficient use of spectrum for agency needs, and it should work in concert with the Federal Communications Commission to assess whether re-allocating Federal spectrum to non-Federal use is feasible. NTIA, under President Biden, put forth a National Spectrum Strategy (NSS) that sought to develop a "spectrum pipeline to ensure U.S. leadership in advanced and emerging technologies." I am concerned, though, this Administration does not prioritize robust spectrum policy, considering that the interagency process has broken down in recent years, reaching its nadir during the first Trump Administration.
 - a. If confirmed, how will you advance NTIA's mission of coordinating Federal use of this finite resource and ensure the Federal government speaks with one voice?

- b. Will you commit to advancing the work of the NSS and developing a spectrum pipeline?
- c. Will you commit to updating this Committee every three months on your progress in supporting efforts to balance spectrum needs and optimize Federal uses?

I agree that advancing a spectrum pipeline to promote U.S. leadership in advanced and emerging technologies, as intended by the NSS, must remain a key priority for our country. I also agree that this requires a robust and successful interagency coordination process. As mandated in its enabling statute, NTIA is the coordinator of federal spectrum and is in charge of coordinating the executive branch's position on spectrum issues. If confirmed, I pledge to abide by NTIA's statutory role on spectrum and making federal spectrum use as efficient as possible, consistent with national security and public safety. Upon confirmation, I will confer with NTIA staff on the status of the agency's spectrum studies. I also pledge to maintain open channels with Congress on NTIA's spectrum work and to update this Committee on the agency's progress on a quarterly basis.

- 3. **NTIA Coordination and Commercial Certainty:** Under the previous Trump Administration, we saw NTIA fail to properly coordinate Federal use of spectrum, with the Federal Communications Commission auctioning off multiple bands over the objections of key agencies like the Department of Defense, Federal Aviation Administration, and NASA. The lack of coordination and communication between Federal agencies, the NTIA, and the FCC led to billions in lawsuits, unusable licenses, and delays in deployment of commercial networks.
 - a. If confirmed, how will you ensure the NTIA coordinates across Federal agencies and works with the FCC to provide certainty to commercial spectrum users that if there is an auction of licenses or current licenses are approved for new uses, the decision has been through a robust consultation process with Federal agencies with impacted equities?

There should always be a robust coordination process with impacted Federal agencies. As mandated in its enabling statute, NTIA is the coordinator of federal spectrum and is in charge of communicating the executive branch's position on spectrum issues. If confirmed, I pledge to abide by NTIA's statutory role on spectrum, work closely with other federal agencies to ensure critical federal missions are protected, and maintain clear and frequent communications with the FCC in communicating the views of the executive branch.

- 4. **Nevada's Approved BEAD Final Proposal:** Over two months ago, NTIA approved Nevada's Final BEAD Proposal, and the NIST grants officer who administers the funding also signed off on the proposal weeks ago.

- a. Given that Nevada's Final Proposal has been fully approved, when can we expect Nevada's BEAD funding to be disbursed?
- b. Is it the Administration's intention to require states with *approved* final proposals, like Nevada and Louisiana, to *restart* their entire BEAD process, and would you support this?
- c. Is it the Administration's intention to make states with *approved* final proposals, like Nevada and Louisiana, *re-bid* or *re-do* their entire selection process, and would you support this?

As I have not yet been confirmed, I have not been made privy to the Administration's intention on BEAD for states with approved proposals. However, connecting every American to broadband expeditiously is my top priority, and I agree that the Department must move quickly to disburse funding to Nevada, consistent with the law. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA staff to expedite the BEAD program, get funding to the states, and expand broadband buildout, consistent with the law. I look forward to working with NTIA's career staff and state broadband offices to cut red tape and unnecessary bureaucracy, to avoid further delays and minimize work for states, consistent with the law.

5. **NTIA Approvals under the IIJA:** As you stated in your confirmation hearing, you are committed to following the law. Are you aware of any part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – which I helped write, along with other members of this Committee – that gives the NTIA the authority to *withdraw* approval for a plan or require a resubmission *AFTER it has already approved* the proposal?

If confirmed and the issue of withdrawing an already approved proposal were to come up, I would consult with legal counsel and NTIA's career staff. I am not currently aware of a specific provision in the IIJA on this point.

6. **BEAD Delays under this Administration:** Secretary Lutnick has said that the Trump Administration wants to “get rid of the delays” in the BEAD program. And in Nevada, we have providers ready to build tomorrow and can have people connected by the end of the summer, but are waiting for Nevada's funding to be released. Last week, Chairman Cruz, along with 12 Republican members of this Committee sent a letter, calling for moving this program forward “without any more delay caused by unnecessary government interference.” Requiring states to re-bid with new guidance would delay buildout in Nevada, at minimum, another 15-18 months.
 - a. How does delaying Nevada's BEAD funding and buildout align with the Administration's purported goal to eliminate delays?

- b. Across the country, states have collectively spent over \$100 million on planning, working with providers, bidding projects, and selecting final projects. Ms. Roth, would it be FAST or EFFICIENT to require states like Nevada and Louisiana to scrap that work and restart the bidding process under completely different rules?

It seemingly would not be “fast or efficient” to throw away that work and restart the process from scratch. Connecting every American to broadband expeditiously is my top priority. I understand the frustration with the delay in getting funding to your state. It is unfortunate that the previous Administration spent three years on administrative tasks instead of focusing on getting shovels into the ground. However, I believe the short-term delay that is needed to correct these missteps will enable NTIA to oversee a more efficient, effective broadband loan program in the long run. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick, NTIA staff, and state broadband offices to expedite the BEAD program, get funding to the states, and expand broadband buildout, consistent with the law. I look forward to working with NTIA’s career staff and state broadband offices to cut red tape and unnecessary bureaucracy, to avoid further delays and minimize work for states, consistent with the law.

- 7. **Priority Broadband Projects under IIJA**: In Nevada, we have an all-of-the-above approach to technology that aligns with the intent of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The statute is tech neutral, in that it prioritizes the necessary technology to meet certain speed and scalability outcomes. Specifically, the statute defines a priority broadband project as one that satisfies quality, reliability, and speed requirements and can easily scale for future connectivity needs and 5G technologies. This is important, because while the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is tech neutral, it also has standards for such technology, and scalability for 5G technology is one of them.
 - a. Does satellite technology *currently* support the scalability of 5G services?
 - b. Could satellite broadband services be considered under the statutory definition of a “priority broadband project” under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law?

Satellite technology is changing fast enough that I would want to consult with NTIA’s engineers before making a determination on its current capabilities. If confirmed, I will consult with NTIA’s engineers and attorneys to determine which specific products, services, and technologies meet the criteria in the law for “priority broadband project” per the IIJA.

- 8. **Cost of Internet**: Secretary Lutnick has announced that he is “revamping” BEAD to make it tech neutral – which it already is – and the “lowest cost”. But costs for Elon Musk’s Starlink right now are over \$120 a month, while internet service providers in

Nevada offer higher speeds for less than half of that. What benefits will Americans receive if the NTIA changes the rules for BEAD to give rural areas slower, less reliable internet that costs consumers *more* money?

Such a scenario would not be a desirable result. If confirmed, I will work to deliver the best broadband service possible to all Americans, consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

9. **High Cost Locations**: Some in this Administration have questioned why we are building in high cost locations, calling for some sort of cap on the costs of building out broadband to certain locations. Not only would this be misguided and inject uncertainty into the program, but it is in direct contradiction with the purpose of the BEAD program: to close the digital divide. If the private sector could easily build out to these hard-to-serve locations, they would have already. Providing high-speed, reliable broadband to all Americans who have been left behind is the explicit purpose of the law. In Nevada, many of the high cost awards in Nevada were awarded to the sole bidder of that project. Satellite couldn't serve those areas technologically – and fixed wireless bids often ended up being even more expensive. A national per location cap disregards complex factors that vary state by state and could prevent states from being able to connect 100 percent of unserved locations with the money allocated to the state under the program.
 - a. Would you support instituting an arbitrary national cap on costs per location?
 - b. Would you support instituting an arbitrary national cap on costs per location, even if that provider was the sole bidder of that location?

I do not support taking any arbitrary actions. If confirmed and the issue of a per-location cap were to come up, I would consult with legal counsel, NTIA's career staff, state broadband offices, industry stakeholders, and this Committee as appropriate. Moreover, a per-location cap, should it come up, would need to account for consideration of high-cost areas, including high-cost Tribal areas.

SENATOR BEN RAY LUJÁN (D-NM)

1. Sec. Lutnick is calling on states to use the lowest cost option when building out broadband under the BEAD Program. Although satellite is cheaper and quicker to deploy in the short-term, it will be more expensive in the long-term. Fiber is considered the gold standard in internet connection.

Yes or no, do you support deprioritizing fiber in favor of fixed wireless or LEO satellites?

I support an all-of-the-above solution, including fiber as well as alternative technologies where appropriate. If confirmed, I will work to deliver the best broadband service possible to all Americans, consistent with NTIA's statutory authority.

- a. Are you aware of any small LEO operators that satisfy IJJA's 100/20 mbps speeds and low latency conditions?

I am not, but satellite technology is changing fast enough that I would want to consult with NTIA's engineers before making a determination on its current capabilities. If confirmed, I will consult with NTIA's engineers and attorneys to determine which specific products, services, and technologies meet these criteria.

2. Earlier this month, Secretary Lutnick put out a statement saying that the Commerce Department is "revamping the BEAD program to take a tech-neutral approach that is rigorously driven by outcomes, so states can provide internet access for the lowest cost."

Yes or no, do you support requiring states to overhaul and resubmit their BEAD plans?

- a. If yes: How does that comport with your goal of deploying the money "expeditiously"?

Connecting every American to broadband expeditiously is my top priority. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA staff to expedite the BEAD program, get funding to the states, and expand broadband buildout, consistent with the law. I look forward to working with NTIA's career staff and state broadband offices to cut red tape and unnecessary bureaucracy, to avoid further delays and minimize work for states, consistent with the law.

3. During a June 2024 Federalist Society event you stated, "Instead of prioritizing connecting all Americans who are currently unserved to Broadband, the NTIA has just been preoccupied with attaching all kinds of extra-legal requirements on BEAD, and to be honest, a woke social agenda." What provisions or requirements of BEAD constitute a "woke social agenda"? Please be specific.

At this panel, I was speaking in my capacity as the telecommunications policy director reflecting the views of Chairman Cruz who has expressed concern around extra-legal BEAD requirements. The concern over unnecessary requirements was notably discussed a few weeks ago by Ezra Klein and Jon Stewart on a podcast and flagged by the prior Administration's own BEAD director. If confirmed, I look forward to working with NTIA's career staff and state broadband offices to cut red tape and unnecessary bureaucracy, to avoid further delays and minimize work for states, consistent with the law.

4. You previously stated that ACP had a failed record in connecting unserved Americans. However, by the time the program ended, more than 23 million households had accessed the ACP, which totals nearly 40% of eligible households. There is also strong evidence that the program provided vastly more economic benefits than it cost.

Yes or no, do you stand by your statement that ACP had a “failed record”?

- a. If yes, what evidence do you have to back up your statement?

I was speaking in my capacity as the telecommunications policy director reflecting the views of Chairman Cruz who has documented concerns about ACP's record. Some of those were addressed in the language you offered to reform ACP. I support ensuring that broadband is affordable for low-income Americans. Of course, ensuring that low-income broadband programs are effective and targeted can be challenging, but it is something I am willing to put significant effort into to get right. I would welcome the opportunity to work with your office on this important, bipartisan issue.

5. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 requires internet service providers participating in the BEAD program to offer a low-cost service option. NTIA gives states flexibility about how they implement the low-cost requirement, with offerings ranging from \$15 a month in New York to up to \$150 in Alaska. Yes or no, do you commit to follow the law and require all BEAD subgrantees to offer at least one low-cost broadband service option, as required under the statute?

Yes, I commit to following the law.

6. As you know, the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program allocates \$3 billion to support Tribal governments deployment projects, telehealth, and online educational opportunities. The last administration announced several awards at the end of 2024 but \$1 billion remains to be distributed. Will you commit to administer the remaining funds?

If confirmed, I commit to implementing NTIA's statutory requirements, including with respect to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program.

7. As Administrator, you have a critical role in ensuring that federal incumbents are using their spectrum resources efficiently. In some cases, reallocating the spectrum for nonfederal use may not be an option yet there may be opportunities to share spectrum to

ensure its maximum benefit for the federal government and consumers alike. Would you commit to requiring NTIA to publish clear timelines and stakeholder engagement opportunities as part of any spectrum studies aiming to commercialize federal spectrum?

As mandated in its enabling statute, NTIA is the coordinator of federal spectrum and is in charge of coordinating the executive branch's position on spectrum issues. If confirmed, I pledge to abide by NTIA's statutory role on spectrum and making federal spectrum use as efficient as possible, consistent with national security and public safety. Upon confirmation, I will confer with NTIA staff on the status of the agency's spectrum studies. I also pledge to maintain open channels with stakeholders on NTIA's spectrum work.

SENATOR JOHN HICKENLOOPER (D-CO)

The NTIA is responsible for advocating for federal agencies in key spectrum policy deliberations. In recent years, certain agency views have been raised to highlight potential impacts to federal missions as a result of harmful interference to NOAA satellites that help predict weather; impacts to our GPS systems; and after a commercial “C-Band” auction, concerns were raised about impacts to aircraft altimeters which required a voluntary pause for licensees to use new C-Band licenses to preserve aviation safety.

1. With specificity, what instances or scenarios do you consider to be “harmful interference” between federal agencies and a range of unlicensed users using spectrum? Do you believe past spectrum policy decisions were hurried or created “harmful interference” to federal missions? Why or why not?

I have great respect for the engineers at NTIA, the FCC, and the various federal agencies that rely on spectrum. It would be my top priority to protect national security and public safety in any spectrum decisions I make if confirmed. Harmful interference to critical federal operations is unacceptable.

One prominent instance of harmful interference between federal and unlicensed users was an episode in 2009, in which the Federal Aviation Administration became aware of interference to Terminal Doppler Weather Radars that operate in the 5600–5650 MHz band and provide measurements of weather hazards for improved safety of operations in and around airports. According to a [report](#) written by NTIA with the assistance of FAA engineers, the interference was caused by unlicensed devices operating in the same band. This incident underscores the need for proper coordination between federal and commercial users.

I look forward to working to protect against harmful interference in any spectrum decisions I make if confirmed.

International standards are key to all forms of emerging technologies—including communications. The upcoming World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC) in 2027 is a key date where global decisions will be made on the future of 6G, space-based communications, and expanding Wi-Fi capabilities.

2. What is your specific plan to help prepare and develop consensus priorities for the United States delegation to pursue at the WRC-27 convening?

It is critically important for the United States to be prepared for WRC-27, and we need to establish our international policy positions on spectrum as quickly as possible. I believe NTIA has a very important role in that and, if confirmed, will work expeditiously to ensure that the delegation has what it needs to be successful. Central to being prepared for the WRC is convening relevant Federal agencies and stakeholders beforehand so that our country enters the WRC with unified positions.

The State of Colorado has recently finalized its second application window to expand broadband to roughly 171,000 locations. If our State’s Final Proposal is approved by the NTIA, Coloradans will finally see broadband expansion using a diverse mix of technologies, including fiber, fixed

wireless, and satellite. With our state's complex geography, ensuring every household has high-speed connectivity is our North Star.

3. As the Department of Commerce considers reforms to the BEAD Program, will you commit to allowing States to continue with their project planning and award process without unnecessary delay?

I agree that we should avoid unnecessary delay. Connecting every American to broadband expeditiously is my top priority. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Lutnick and NTIA staff to expedite the BEAD program, get funding to the states, and expand broadband buildout, consistent with the law. I look forward to working with NTIA's career staff and state broadband offices to cut red tape and unnecessary bureaucracy, to avoid further delays and minimize work for states, consistent with the law.

SENATOR LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER (D-DE)

1. Ms. Roth, cybersecurity in our nation's broadband networks is such an important part of our digital ecosystem. Additionally, with the rise of AI systems and Internet of Things applications, broadband users will have more potential vectors of attack for bad actors to target.

With the recent Salt Typhoon hack proving the necessity of cybersecurity programs, can you tell me, given the NTIA's advisory role to the President, your concrete plans in your first 100 days if approved for this role, to address safely integrating these emerging technologies into our country's broadband networks?

Salt Typhoon was a massive penetration of our country's communications networks, and it is important to plug any vulnerabilities to prevent future attacks. If confirmed, I look forward to working with NTIA's staff and other federal agencies to develop and promote standards and best practices for cybersecurity. Although NTIA does not have regulatory authority, it can play a key role in policy development, advocacy, and information sharing with respect to cybersecurity.