

Response to Written Question Submitted by Honorable Jerry Moran to Jonathan Spalter

*Question.* As the Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee with jurisdiction over the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), I have interest in seeing how NTIA could build upon the data collection of the FCC in its Form 477 process. More specifically, we have appropriated substantial resources in recent years to NTIA to broaden and update the National Broadband Map using their developed state partnerships. While NTIA has already announced its partnership with eight states to contribute data and other inputs into the map, would you agree that adding more state partnerships to contribute to the map would likely improve the overall accuracy of the map?

*Response.* The accuracy of any broadband mapping effort will benefit from the inclusion of multiple inputs and from the review by multiple parties, including state broadband mapping programs. Ideally, there will be a consistent national map based on consistently reported data, which states can supplement and review for accuracy. One of the key challenges that currently exists with mapping of broadband in the United States is the ability to get not just accurate, but also consistent geo reference (latitude and longitude) points of the locations that need broadband service. USTelecom is encouraged by state broadband deployment and mapping efforts. At the same time, our members whose service includes multiple states have observed that the inconsistencies in broadband availability data collection is an issue that needs to be solved. We support NTIA's efforts to build a platform to collect and display broadband availability data. Ideally, the data that populates NTIA's platform will be consistent and harmonized at the national level, with active input and review from all states. USTelecom will continue to coordinate closely with NTIA in order to rapidly develop a sustainable, cost-effective, comprehensive and scalable national broadband map so we can accomplish our shared goal of closing the digital divide once and for all.