



Dear Chairwoman Titus, Ranking Member Webster, and distinguished members of the Committee,

On behalf of the membership of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), the leading national association representing Economic Development Districts (EDDs) across the country as designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA), we express our support for H.R. 3193, *the Eliminating Barriers to Rural Internet Development Grant Eligibility (E-BRIDGE) Act*.

As has become increasingly clear over the past year and half, broadband connectivity is key to the success of communities, industries, and individuals. Yet many of our rural communities do not have the resources that are necessary to stay connected. The E-BRIDGE legislation will help support access to high-speed broadband connectivity throughout rural regions. These resources will allow for greater economic resiliency across the country and will help facilitate rural prosperity. In addition to supporting economic development and competitiveness, the E-BRIDGE Act will also allow increased telehealth capabilities and ensure that vulnerable populations in rural areas have access to quality care, and it will also support rural residents in working, learning, doing business, and engaging in other activities remotely when necessary.

NADO strongly supports this legislation and asks that the Committee favorably consider this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JM", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Joe McKinney
Executive Director
National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)