

# MAKE EVERY DOLLAR INVESTED IN RURAL BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE COUNT REFORM POLE RULES!

## What can federal policymakers do right now?

### CONGRESS CAN

- ➔ Guarantee a more equitable division of costs between pole owners and attachers for replacing utility pole infrastructure.
- ➔ Ensure broadband providers have timely access to poles by standardizing timelines and expediting dispute resolution.
- ➔ Establish a pole replacement and reimbursement fund to help reimburse costs required to replace poles.

### THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC) CAN

- ➔ Update and clarify pole attachment rules to ensure timely access, fair cost sharing, and expedited dispute resolution.

### THE PROBLEM

Families rely on the Internet for just about everything. But an outdated process of attaching broadband infrastructure to poles is preventing access for millions, particularly in rural America.

Pole owners often refuse to process broadband provider permits or require new attachers to pay for the complete replacement of poles, which can lead to time-consuming disputes and shift resources away from deploying broadband. Disputes and delays related to the pole process can derail projects entirely.

ACCORDING TO THE FCC,  
MORE THAN **14 MILLION**  
AMERICANS ARE STILL  
UNCONNECTED