

HR 800

New Deal Rural Broadband Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Feb 1, 2017

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit. (Feb 24, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/800>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (20 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Nolan, Richard M. [D-MN-8]	D · MN		Feb 1, 2017
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Feb 1, 2017
Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Feb 2, 2017
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Feb 2, 2017
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Feb 2, 2017
Rep. O'Halleran, Tom [D-AZ-1]	D · AZ		Feb 2, 2017
Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-5]	D · CA		Feb 2, 2017
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]	D · CA		Feb 7, 2017
Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3]	D · WI		Feb 7, 2017
Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-13]	D · OH		Feb 7, 2017
Rep. Shea-Porter, Carol [D-NH-1]	D · NH		Feb 13, 2017
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Feb 16, 2017
Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-25]	D · NY		Feb 27, 2017
Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]	D · MN		Mar 10, 2017
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Mar 20, 2017
Rep. Ellison, Keith [D-MN-5]	D · MN		Mar 21, 2017
Rep. Walz, Timothy J. [D-MN-1]	D · MN		Mar 23, 2017
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		Mar 29, 2017
Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]	D · FL		Apr 3, 2017
Rep. O'Rourke, Beto [D-TX-16]	D · TX		Apr 9, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 24, 2017
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 3, 2017
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 15, 2017
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 15, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 2425	Related bill	Dec 28, 2018: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 861.

Summary (as of Feb 1, 2017)

New Deal Rural Broadband Act of 2017

This bill amends the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to establish a rural broadband office within the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and authorize new grants and loans for developing broadband in rural, underserved, and tribal areas.

The bill establishes the Office of Rural Broadband Initiatives and the position of Under Secretary for Rural Broadband Initiatives to:

- administer all rural broadband-related grant and loan programs currently administered by the Rural Utilities Service,
- conduct specified outreach and coordination activities, and
- conduct and release to the public an inventory of federal and state property on which a broadband facility could be constructed.

The bill establishes the Breaking Ground on Rural Broadband Program and the Tribal Broadband Assistance Program to provide grants, loans, or loan guarantees for the development of broadband in rural, underserved, and tribal areas.

The bill modifies existing programs to authorize USDA to: (1) provide grants, in addition to loans and loan guarantees permitted under current law, for the construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and equipment for broadband service in rural areas; and (2) give priority to multijurisdictional projects for the development of broadband or telecommunications services through the collaboration and participation of multiple stakeholders in the service area.

The bill authorizes federal land management agencies to retain and use certain rental fees for communications activities on federal lands. The agencies may use the fees for specified activities related to administering and managing communications sites.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 24, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit.
- **Feb 15, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.
- **Feb 15, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands.
- **Feb 3, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.
- **Feb 1, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 1, 2017:** Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.