

Why is Washington Choosing to Keep Rural America Disconnected From Broadband?

A Letter from David Herring, Founder and CEO of ClearPath Fiber

In this letter, Mr. Herring highlights ClearPath Fiber's grassroots efforts to build rural broadband in Louisiana, voices concern over BEAD delays and investor fallout, and urges federal leaders to reaffirm fiber as the national standard while empowering ready providers like ClearPath.

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By: David Herring, CEO ClearPath Fiber



CLEARPATH FIBER
YOUR ESSENTIAL CONNECTION

Mr. Lutnick,

ClearPath Fiber was founded to meet a pressing need — to bring world-class internet to the very communities that major providers have long overlooked. We didn't wait on someone else to solve the problem. As a small, mission-driven startup, we took bold risks, built infrastructure from the ground up, and partnered with manufacturers, contractors, and engineers to serve rural and underserved Americans.

But here's the truth: **we can't continue this work — not because we aren't ready, but because delays and uncertainty are costing us everything.** We believed in this country's future and in your administration's promises to put Americans to work. Based on those commitments, we've invested real money, secured local support, and laid the groundwork for transformative broadband deployment.

Now, we are watching that progress stall.

Our investors — once confident — are now backing away. The financial risk grows each day federal guidance is delayed or revised. **Every hour lost to indecision weakens the very future we've been fighting to build.** This isn't just about missed deadlines — it's about missed opportunity. In the time it takes to "reassess" or "reconfigure," **we could have 20% of our customers connected** — real families, real businesses, real students gaining access to opportunity.

We urge you to recognize what's happening on the ground in Louisiana. Our state has done everything right:

- We already embrace **technology neutrality**
- We have **low passing rates** and high need
- We do not require DEI point awards
- We support **NEPA reform** and **streamlined DOT permitting**
- We've adopted policies that allow rapid, cost-efficient deployment
- And we support the removal of the outdated **low-cost option**

Louisiana is ready. Not next year. Not after another round of revisions. **We can be in the ground next week.**

So why are we being held back?

The BEAD program's original **fiber-first focus** remains the right approach — delivering long-term value, local jobs, and true infrastructure resiliency. Shifting those priorities toward satellite is a mistake. It may seem convenient, but it sacrifices the high-performance future our communities deserve for short-term headlines. And it further delays real progress in areas that already feel forgotten.

Meanwhile, large corporations who have already failed to meet RDOF and ReConnect obligations are once again at the front of the line — while companies like ClearPath, who've invested our own capital, who have community trust, who are ready to deliver, are being sidelined.

We respectfully urge your administration to:

- **Stop delaying.** Every day of uncertainty costs jobs, investor confidence, and momentum.
- **Support Louisiana's readiness** to lead — we are proof of what's possible when policy, community, and private enterprise align.
- **Reaffirm fiber as the foundation** of our national broadband strategy — not as an option, but as the standard.
- **Hold underperforming incumbents accountable** — and stop rewarding failure.
- **Champion operators like ClearPath** who are delivering results — not promises.

Let Louisiana move forward. Let us lead the way — **the right way, right now**. Because there's no benefit in holding back those who are ready, willing, and able.

We would be honored to share our story, our results, and our commitment with you and your team. We don't just connect homes — we empower communities, strengthen economies, and give our children the future they deserve. Let's finish the job. Let's do it right. And let's start now.

Sincerely,
David Herring
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