

Hadley, Ryan E

From: Ryan Hoff <RHoff@indianacounties.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2018 3:09 PM
To: Comments, Urc
Subject: Assn of Indiana Counties comment to GAO 2018-3
Attachments: IURC_AIC Comment GAO 2018-3.pdf

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Please find attached comment from the Association of Indiana Counties to GAO 2018-3.

Ryan Hoff

Association of Indiana Counties
Director of Government Relations and General Counsel
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General Counsel Beth Heline
Re: IUSF-Broadband Study
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
101 West Washington Street, Ste. 1500 E
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Ms. Heline,

Please accept this letter as written comment to IURC GAO 2018-3 regarding the use of the Universal Service Fund and broadband deployment in rural Indiana.

The Association of Indiana Counties is a membership organization consisting of all 92 counties in our great state, both urban and rural. We thank the Indiana General Assembly for passage of HEA 1065 and the assignment of studying the use of the Indiana Universal Service Fund for broadband deployment to the IURC.

Broadband access across the state remains a vexing issue that confronts our membership on a daily basis in terms of quality of life, level of governmental service, and economic development. We welcome HEA 1065 and its goal of moving Indiana closer to broadband internet service for all Hoosiers.

AIC supports use of the Indiana Universal Service Fund for broadband deployment into unserved and underserved areas of the state. As technology evolves, continued use of the USF should also evolve to assist in deployment of broadband service to all Hoosiers. The original purpose of the IUSF to assist in cost effective deployment of telephone service would be served in its natural successor, broadband internet service.

Further, albeit outside the structure of the IUSF, Indiana must find other mechanisms to support deployment of broadband service. AIC also supports examination of existing assets which can be used in deployment. Specifically, we request the state to examine the potential for use of the I-Light data network as a structure which would further aid in statewide deployment of easily accessible broadband service.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Bottorff
Executive Director
Association of Indiana Counties