



STATE OF WASHINGTON
Office of the Governor

May 30, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Secretary
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

Thank you for your letter regarding the ReConnect program dated March 29, 2019. I am happy to provide this letter for your reference and in support of applications from and for Washington's communities.

The state of Washington's broadband program aims to empower every member of our state with affordable and quality access to broadband services. The digital divide should not limit any Washingtonian's ability to learn, innovate, or connect through robust internet access.

In response to the program's specific provisions, I can confirm that:

- Washington State's broadband plan is up-to-date and published on the internet; please see <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/building-infrastructure/pwb-broadband/>.
- Procedures are in place within the Governor's Office of Regulatory Innovation and Assistance (<https://www.oria.wa.gov>) to expedite administrative activities, if necessary, for completing rights-of-way and environmental permitting requirements for the project in order to meet the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) project build-out timelines.

To the extent feasible within USDA timelines and state resources, the State will endeavor to assist ReConnect applicants proposing projects in Washington with information indicating state broadband infrastructure investments within the past five years. Communities needing assistance with this information can contact my Policy Advisor, John Flanagan, at John.Flanagan@gov.wa.gov or (360) 902-9818.

Very truly yours,

Jay Inslee
Governor

