



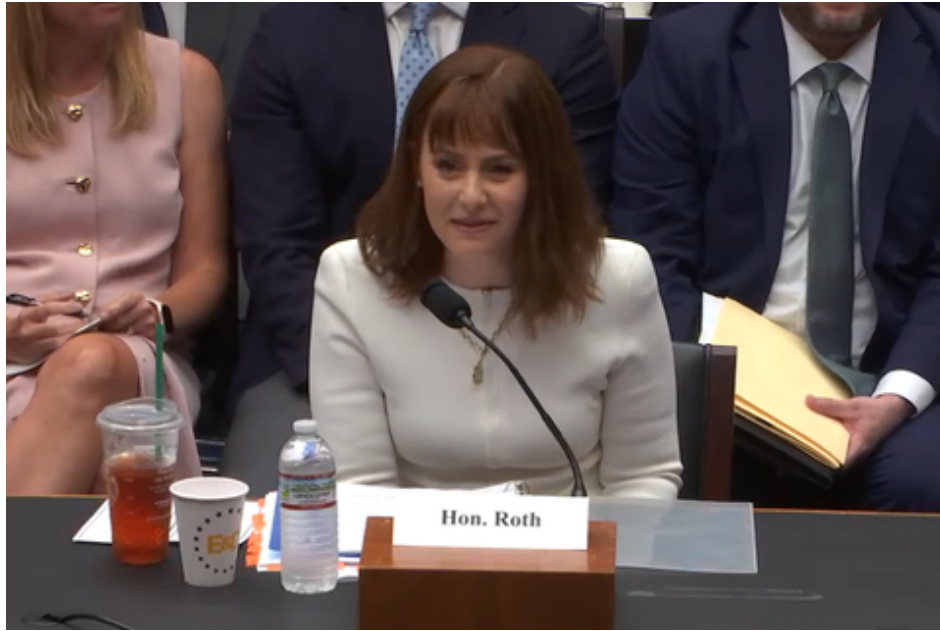
July 3, 2026



America at 250: As we celebrate America's 250th anniversary, NTCA honors the small towns and rural places where generations of Americans have built the infrastructure — roads, bridges, and communications networks — that support businesses and communities that last. Watch our tribute to America's 250th and broadband built to last as you celebrate this weekend.

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Roth Defends BEAD in House Testimony

In [testimony](#) before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Administrator Arielle Roth highlighted recent changes to the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, saying they restore the program to its statutory purpose by emphasizing competition, accountability and technology neutrality.

Roth said the reforms, which eliminated the program's previous preference for fiber projects, reduced what she described as unnecessary regulatory requirements and encouraged greater private investment from providers competing for funding. She argued the changes will lower deployment costs, accelerate broadband deployment and connect unserved consumers more quickly while protecting taxpayer dollars. When asked if performance testing results for BEAD recipients would be made public, as NTCA requested in a [letter to NTIA](#), Roth said “aggregated data” would be shared.



Final Call for NTCA 2027 Excellence Awards Nominations

There are just three days left to nominate a deserving colleague for an [NTCA 2027 Excellence Award](#). The awards recognize individuals whose dedication, talent and service have made a meaningful impact on their workplace, company and community. Nominations close July 6.

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FROM THE CEO



America at 250: Building Connections That Last

As we celebrate America's 250th anniversary, it's worth remembering that our nation's story started in rural America, and the heartbeat of our great country can often be heard most loudly in the spaces between the biggest cities. You can see this spirit clearly in small towns and rural communities where generations of Americans have come together to build the infrastructure: roads, bridges, and – yes, communications networks – that provide a reliable foundation for civic engagement, commerce, and connection.

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NEED TO KNOW

NTCA, [joined](#) by ACA Connects, asked the FCC to grant a targeted waiver allowing manufacturers to make limited hardware substitutions in previously authorized consumer routers. The associations said the action would help rural broadband providers avoid equipment shortages and continue expanding and maintaining service while suppliers shift production to comply with commission rules.

The House of Representatives Committee on Rules approved the [National Defense Authorization Act](#) for fiscal year 2027, and the full House is expected to take up the bill later this month. Floor action on the bill is expected to include cybersecurity incident reporting related amendments.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held an [oversight hearing](#) on the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). During the hearing, lawmakers discussed a [proposed rule](#) that would make several changes to guidance for federal financial assistance, potentially affecting rural broadband deployment programs, among others.

Applications are now [being accepted](#) for the 2027-2028 NTCA member-led committees and the PAC Board of Directors, with a deadline of August 7. A full list of committees and councils is available on the [NTCA website](#). Current committee and PAC Board members must reapply to continue serving next year.

Elections for commercial and cooperative company seats on the [2026 NTCA Board of Directors](#) for the Northeast and Southwest regions will be held this fall. Nominations for both cooperative and commercial seats representing the regions are now being accepted, with a deadline of July 13.

OUTREACH

NTCA Vice President of Policy and Industry Innovation **Josh Seidemann** gave a federal update at the Indiana Broadband and Technology Association Convention in French Lick, Indiana.



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