

## DEBUNKING LIES:

### Protecting Taxpayers from Swampy Special Interests that Want BEAD Money without any Oversight

**BOTTOM LINE:** The Trump NTIA is doing what every taxpayer should demand—asking questions before handing out billions of dollars. If special interests are upset that NTIA won't give them a blank check, we should be asking: **What do they have to hide?**

**MYTH:** *NTIA is shifting the rules of the BEAD program midstream, moving the goalposts and introducing “bait-and-switch” tactics that disadvantage states and rural Americans.*

**FACT:** NTIA is **restoring integrity** to the BEAD program by following the law as written in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. That's in stark contrast to the Biden era free-for-all, where favored industries got rubber-stamped funding with no guardrails, with taxpayers bearing the costs.

- NTIA's **“Benefit of the Bargain” reforms have been a huge success, saving taxpayers at least \$13 billion.**
- NTIA is now doing what any responsible agency must: reviewing state proposals to ensure compliance and proper stewardship of public funds—and protecting against waste, fraud, and abuse.
- As NTIA clearly stated in its June 6, 2025 Restructuring Policy Notice: *“NTIA reserves the right to reject an Eligible Entity's selection of a project for a subgrant if such project would impose unreasonable costs on the BEAD Program.”*
- It's the exact opposite of a bait-and-switch—NTIA is abiding by the rules and restoring basic accountability.

**MYTH:** *NTIA is imposing arbitrary price caps, reversing course from its June 6 guidance.*

**FACT:** There are **no “arbitrary price caps”**—just **data-driven oversight**.

- Consistent with its decision to decline to adopt a national excessive cost threshold, NTIA is using **tailored, state-by-state data** to identify **outlier, unreasonably expensive projects**. Press reports identifying a price cap are inaccurate. NTIA looks at each state individually, given their unique topography, geography, density, and local needs.
- In cases of projects flagged as excessively costly, NTIA is requesting additional information from the states and considering extenuating circumstances in its review process.
- What would be *truly* arbitrary? **Greenlighting billions of dollars in unchecked spending** without asking questions and performing due diligence.

**MYTH:** *NTIA is overriding states, favoring satellite over fiber, and ignoring local expertise.*

**FACT:** NTIA has afforded states **significant deference** to identify “priority broadband projects” and **tailor solutions to local needs**.

- Consistent with the IIJA, NTIA refused to impose nationwide technology mandates and instead provided significant deference to the states to select projects based on local conditions on the ground.
- As the reviewer of these projects, NTIA's role is to ensure compliance with federal law and taxpayer interests—not pick winners and losers.

**MYTH:** *NTIA is giving states just 72 hours to run another BEAD bidding cycle, forcing them to select the lowest bid regardless of service quality.*

**FACT:** False. NTIA is not requiring another BEAD bidding round.

- In cases where proposed costs are unreasonable (using state-by-state cost data), states will ask existing bidders in that project area to provide their best and final offer. In these limited cases, providers have *already* submitted bids and have the information they need to quickly submit a new bid or stand on their current one.
- This allows all providers, regardless of technology, another chance to compete for BEAD funding, rather than awarding all excessively high costs areas to one particular technology.
- **Moving quickly for this is crucial**, to ensure Final Proposals are approved within NTIA's 90-day limit and connect Americans to broadband ASAP.