

Legislative Action

The FCC in its goal to increase broadband availability across the United States is looking to change the funding mechanisms for rural telephone companies. These changes must be implemented in a way that protects the investment that your Co-Operative has already made in our existing infrastructure. If these changes are not carefully designed there will be negative consequences for rural communities. In a best case scenario, funding changes would result in an urban/rural divide. In a worst case scenario funding could be constrained in a way that you are left with the most basic telephone and broadband services. We ask for your support to:

- Request that the FCC adopt funding programs that protect the existing investments that we have made in our infrastructure.
- Request that the FCC adopt a sustainable funding mechanism on a going forward basis that provides for telephone and internet service that is equal to urban areas.
- Inform the FCC and Congress of the importance of broadband for rural communities.
- Inform the FCC and Congress that rural constituents have the same right to telephone and broadband services at comparable rates as urban constituents.

Quality telephone and broadband services are the lifeblood of rural communities. The availability of these services will continue to support jobs and economic development in rural areas. Working together we can make sure that the investments that we have made are protected and that broadband service is equal to the speeds available in urban areas. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Resources for more information:

[Grow Illinois Alliance](#)

[Save Rural Broadband](#)