

SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO  
WEST VIRGINIA

COMMITTEES:  
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ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS  
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4805

March 29, 2020

Ms. Bette Brand  
Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Under Secretary Brand:

I write in regards to the Roane County Development Authority's application, in partnership with Citynet, for funding through the ReConnect Program. Funding will support the extension of broadband service to over 3,000 households in Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, Gilmer, Roane, and Webster counties in West Virginia.

Whether it is broadband or highways, infrastructure is vital to the well-being of West Virginians and the communities within which they live. Improving connectivity through the extension and enhancement of broadband infrastructure is particularly important in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as work, learning, and the delivery of healthcare are often accomplished via the web or other services.

Certain regions of West Virginia, however, lack access to adequate broadband service. Fortunately, thanks to my Capito Connect Plan and the efforts of local, state, and federal leaders, we are making tremendous strides in improving connectivity across the state. Federal initiatives such as the ReConnect Program, which I have championed, are integral to these efforts.

This proposal on the part of the Roane County Development Authority promises to use ReConnect funding to extend broadband service to several rural counties in West Virginia. The improvements in service accomplished through this project will redound to the benefit of an estimated 25 businesses, two healthcare facilities, and eight educational facilities. I hope you will give the Authority's application your full consideration.

Sincerely,



Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator

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