

Senator Capito's Broadband Mapping Efforts

September 21, 2018: Senator Capito urged the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to improve the accuracy of the National Broadband Map by using consumer-reported data.

February 12, 2019: Senator Capito helped ensure that West Virginia was included in the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) initiative to broaden and update the national broadband availability map.

March 14, 2019: Senator Capito introduced the Improving Broadband Mapping Accuracy Act to improve the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) broadband coverage maps.

April 10, 2019: Senator Capito voiced her frustration during a Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation hearing focused on examining the current state of the nation's broadband maps.

May 14, 2019: Senator Capito hosted a Senate Broadband Caucus event to highlight the need for better, more accurate broadband coverage maps.

May 16, 2019: Senator Capito introduced the Broadband Data Improvement Act (BDIA), legislation to improve the accuracy of broadband coverage maps and better direct federal funds for broadband buildout.

May 22, 2019: Senator Capito's Broadband Data Improvement Act (BDIA) received broad bipartisan support from numerous officials, businesses, groups, and organizations.

July 1, 2019: Senator Capito hosted Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Commissioner Brendan Carr in West Virginia for a series of telehealth demonstrations and a roundtable discussion with local leaders focused on expanding access to broadband and improving connectivity in the state.

January 3, 2020: With Senator Capito's urging, the FY20 funding bills were signed into law including language that directed the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to report their current and planned efforts to improve accuracy of measurements of broadband coverage.

March 10, 2020: the U.S. Senate passed the Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability (DATA) Act—legislation Senator Capito authored and amended to improve the accuracy of broadband coverage maps.

May 1, 2020: Senator Capito announced the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) 2020 Broadband Deployment Report, and raised concerns about flawed data in the mapping of West Virginia.

November 15, 2021: Senator Capito's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was signed into law, which included \$50 billion to deploy broadband access to communities based on need.

December 1, 2021: Senator Capito questioned Department of Commerce nominee to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, Alan Davidson. During her questioning, Senator Capito urged for increased transparency on the deployment of funding to connect West Virginia with high-speed broadband, and how we can make certain that unserved and underserved populations receive their due support.

March 5, 2022: Senator Capito launched a "Share Your Stories" campaign to hear directly from West Virginians about their broadband connectivity challenges.

March 10, 2022: Senator Capito authored language included in the FY22 funding bill to ensure the FCC and NTIA provided necessary updates on the critical work being done on mapping.

August 24, 2022: Senator Capito hosted Doug Kinkoph, Associate Administrator for the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), for a broadband summit in Wheeling, W.Va.

November 14, 2022: Senator Capito announced \$5,000,000 from the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program for technical planning and public outreach to promote the full participation of all West Virginians in today's digital economy.

November 18, 2022: Senator Capito raised concerns with the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) latest broadband maps and their ability to accurately represent the lack of connectivity in West Virginia.

December 1, 2022: Senator Capito encouraged West Virginians to challenge the accuracy of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) broadband maps.

December 12, 2022: Senator Capito and the West Virginia Broadband Office hosted an informational session for West Virginia community leaders on the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) new broadband coverage maps, how to check coverage and if it's incorrect, challenge the maps.

December 22, 2022: Senator Capito highlighted the importance of mapping in the FY23 funding bill, stressing the need to focus on low income areas.

December 22, 2022: Senator Capito led a letter to Jessica Rosenworcel, Chairwoman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), to ensure the FCC's national broadband maps satisfy the goals of the Broadband DATA Act and provide a reliable depiction of broadband availability across the nation.

February 15, 2023: Senator Capito reintroduced the Rural Broadband Protection Act (S.275), which would require a more thorough vetting and verification process for internet service providers seeking to participate in the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) high-cost programs.

May 31, 2023: Senator Capito spoke with Alan Davidson, administrator for the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), and expressed that the latest round of broadband mapping was an improvement regarding the accuracy of West Virginia's connectivity.

June 14, 2023: Senator Capito delivered a speech on the Senate Floor emphasizing the need for accurate coverage maps to make sure every home and business has strong, dependable internet access.

June 16, 2023: Senator Capito announced \$25,054,092 from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Middle Mile Infrastructure Program to address the broadband needs of Raleigh, Wyoming, McDowell, Mercer, and Summers counties through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

July 13, 2023: Language authored by Senator Capito was included and adopted as part of the FY24 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations report. The language directed the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to prioritize broadband deployment to unserved and then underserved areas, to fully consider and account for each eligible entity's unique challenges when evaluating proposals, and to coordinate with other relevant Federal agencies to identify and pursue policies that enable effective and efficient broadband deployment in rural areas.