



SHLB Coalition Congressional Policy Meeting Notes

7.14.26

- I. Register for [AnchorNets!](#)
 - A. Early bird was extended - ends tomorrow
- II. Recap [House oversight hearing of NTIA](#)
 - A. **Speaker: Reid Sharkey, Benton**
 - 1. 3.3 Million Locations to be served: 61% Fiber, 21% LEO, 12% fixed wireless, 5% coax hybrid - they do not include IL and CA who are still waiting on their final approval
 - 2. States are still awaiting guidance for non-deployment funds
 - B. Roth's Opening Statement
 - 1. BEAD: credited "Benefit of the Bargain" reforms for 54 of 56 FPs approved
 - C. Statements/Questions
 - 1. Republicans
 - a) Applauded cost savings and technology neutral approach of the Benefit of the Bargain round
 - b) Progress of spectrum auctions
 - c) Advancing next generation 911 with non-deployment funds
 - 2. Democrats
 - a) Legality of NTIA's approach to preemption of state laws
 - b) Concerns over providers defaulting their awards
 - c) Can LEO meet the required performance and capacity at scale
 - (1) How to determine that they are providing the standard of service required by the BEAD program.
 - d) Clarification on IL and CA on why their final proposals have not been approved.
 - D. Non-Deployment Funds
 - 1. Roth stated that guidance will come "this summer" and emphasizes outcome driven uses of the funds
 - a) States need to have measurable outcomes for their funds
 - 2. Roth reaffirmed that states gain access to the funds
 - 3. On affordability and adoption: the response was vague but said states "can use the funds in accordance with the law"

E. Commitments and Open Threads

1. Commitments

- a) Non Deployment guidance this summer
- b) SAR from states to be published including aggregate speed test data
- c) Low-cost service option details for each project

2. What to look for going forward

- a) Roth claimed that projects that have had provider dropouts represent <1% of locations
 - (1) Many states are not done signing contracts with ISPs, so there likely will be more dropouts
 - (2) Locations may switch from one provider to another
- b) LEO performance testing, certification of service and contracting are still shrouded in uncertainty

F. Questions and comments

1. Why are providers dropping out?

- a) In a part of Texas - most of the awards that were given to them were in the hardest to serve locations and did not financially make sense for them since they were not able to receive funding for the “easier” to serve areas.
- b) In Nebraska, one of the largest awardee dropped out, but we do not know the exact reason why.
- c) Shifting guidance and lack of communication and clarity with rules is also encouraging dropouts.

2. Why is LEO performance being litigated now?

- a) Many of the locations that are going to get satellite will have perfectly fine performance, but there are many locations that will not have optimized performance because it seems like NTIA has placed a pressure to include LEO more in their proposal.

III. FCC's new [E-Rate proceeding](#) - July events

A. [Save Our E-Rate](#)

B. July 16, 2 pm ET: [SHLB Webinar](#)

C. Building out comment strategy

1. Timeline

2. Series of meetings

- a) July 15, 3 pm ET - CIPA and Screen Time
- b) July 22, 2 pm ET - Legal Authority (Including discount matrix, eligible services, etc.)

c) July 23, 2 pm ET - FNPRM items (consultants, MIBS, etc.)

D. Hill meetings

1. Meeting with members of the USF working group
2. For this week:
 - a) Peters (MI), Moran (KS), Rosen (NV), Sullivan (AK)

E. Hill briefing

1. Wednesday, July 29
 - a) Speakers:
 - (1) Joey (moderate)
 - (2) Superintendent
 - (3) Library
 - (4) Kristen Corra
 - (5) Jon Bernstein
 - (6) Keith Krueger
 - b) Topics Include:
 - (1) What is E-Rate?
 - (2) Why is it so important?
 - (3) What are the many ways in which the internet is used in a modern school/library?
 - (4) What would be the impact of losing E-Rate?

SHLB's next USF Congressional policy group call will reconvene on August 11, 2026 at 2:00 pm ET.

CHAT

2026-07-14 14:05:31 From to Everyone:

AnchorNets agenda - <https://www.shlb.org/anchornets-2026-agenda-at-a-glance>

2026-07-14 14:24:24 From to Everyone:

Can you comment on the *contract* between states and the NTIA and the pushback they are getting from sub-grantees on specific terms? Which terms / concerns are currently in focus? What is the expected resolution (if any)?

2026-07-14 14:25:04 From to Everyone:

On LEOs it is not simply a question of performance. It is also a question of appropriateness in the award process. Some states have awarded satellite to locations that have heavy tree cover. Ku-band signals do not easily penetrate leaves. Broadband offices should know this! They should also know that WISP-style fixed wireless does not cover 100% of locations in a coverage circle, due to local obstructions / lack of roof rights / etc. If a state broadband office ignores this basic information and awards to a technology/ISP that is unable to serve a specific location what happens?

2026-07-14 14:26:35 From to Everyone:

Great summary. Thank you!

2026-07-14 14:27:32 From to Everyone:

What is the best guess for release notice of "non-deployment" ...

2026-07-14 14:33:01 From to Everyone:

Replying to "What is the best guess for release notice of "non-...":

Google tells me that the end of summer falls on September 22

2026-07-14 14:37:16 From to Everyone:

Thank you!

2026-07-14 14:39:04 From to Everyone:

The E-Rate NPRM asks over 200 questions.

2026-07-14 14:40:38 From to Everyone:

Replying to "What is the best guess for release notice of "non-...":

My guess is as good as anyone's

2026-07-14 14:41:50 From to Everyone:

SHLB webinar link-

<https://www.shlb.org/events/the-future-of-e-rate-inside-the-fccs-proposal-and-how-to-make-your-voice-heard/register>

2026-07-14 14:47:34 From to Everyone:

Save Our E-Rate Action Center - <https://www.saveourerate.com/>

2026-07-14 14:53:57 From to Everyone:

Let's go, SHLB members!!!

2026-07-14 14:54:19 From to Everyone:

who should we send the advocacy outreach emails various consultants are sending out (what email address)

2026-07-14 14:54:28 From to Everyone:

Please chack out Welcome! | AZ-1

2026-07-14 14:54:47 From to Everyone:

operations@shlb.org

2026-07-14 14:55:03 From to Everyone:

our AZ stories are housed there and we are adding to this constantly