



State Connections

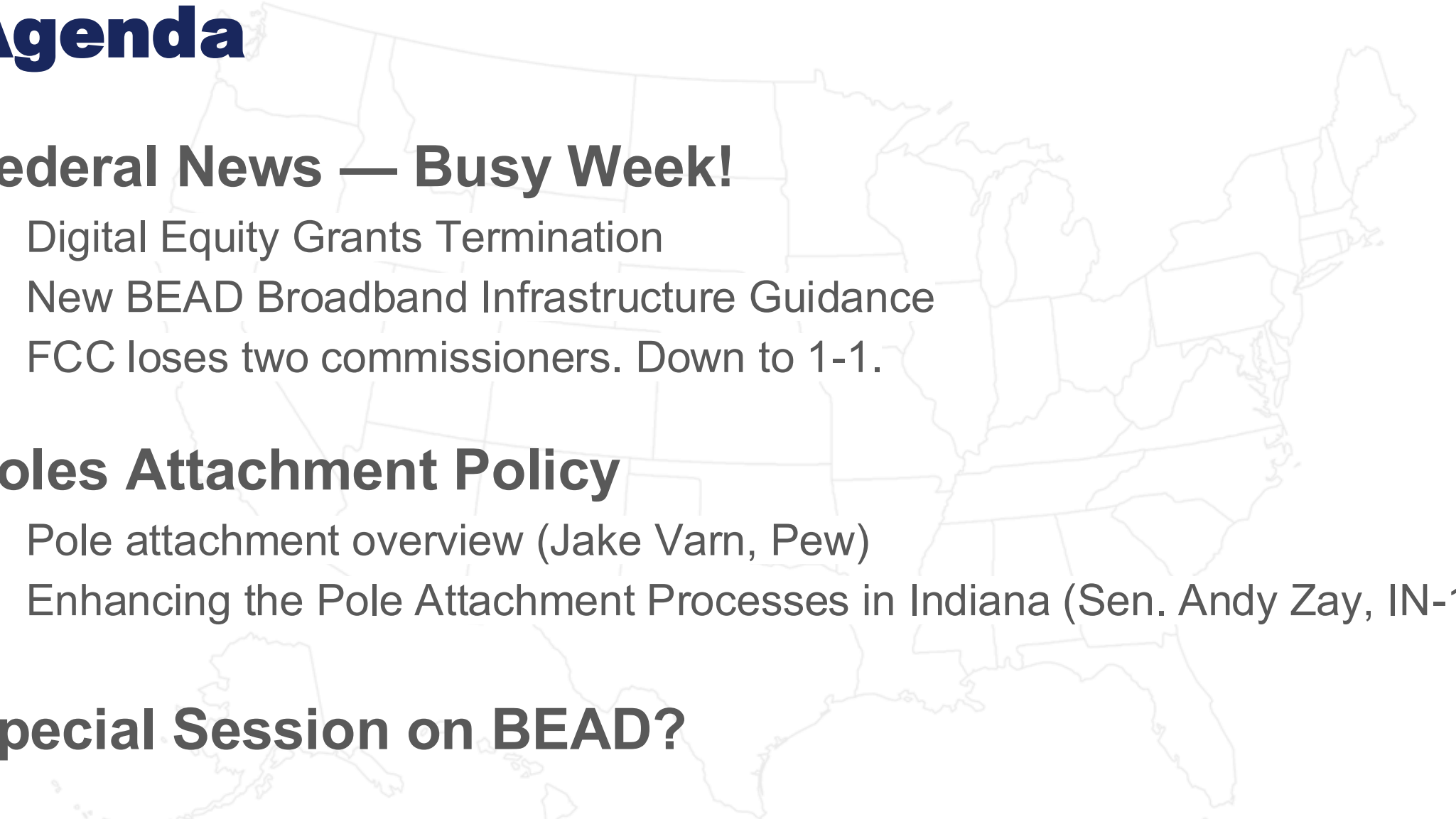
The broadband working group for state legislators

First Friday of Every Month

4:00 ET / 3:00 CT / 2:00 MT / 1:00 PT

WE WILL BEGIN SHORTLY!

Agenda



Federal News — Busy Week!

- Digital Equity Grants Termination
- New BEAD Broadband Infrastructure Guidance
- FCC loses two commissioners. Down to 1-1.

Poles Attachment Policy

- Pole attachment overview (Jake Varn, Pew)
- Enhancing the Pole Attachment Processes in Indiana (Sen. Andy Zay, IN-17)

Special Session on BEAD?

Federal News

Digital Equity Grants (\$2.75b) Terminated

- Grants cancelled by executive action on May 8th.
- States to lose millions for devices, cybersecurity, workforce, etc.
- Nonprofits and municipalities hit too.

Response

- Termination likely illegal. DEA is the law
- Vermont Attorney General filing lawsuit
 - Other states considering
 - States must join suit to get relief (?)
- Threat of Congressional rescissions

“All Digital Equity Competitive and Digital Equity Capacity grant awards have been terminated, except for grants to Native Entities, which are pending further legal review.”

-NTIA Notice

Digital Equity Letter

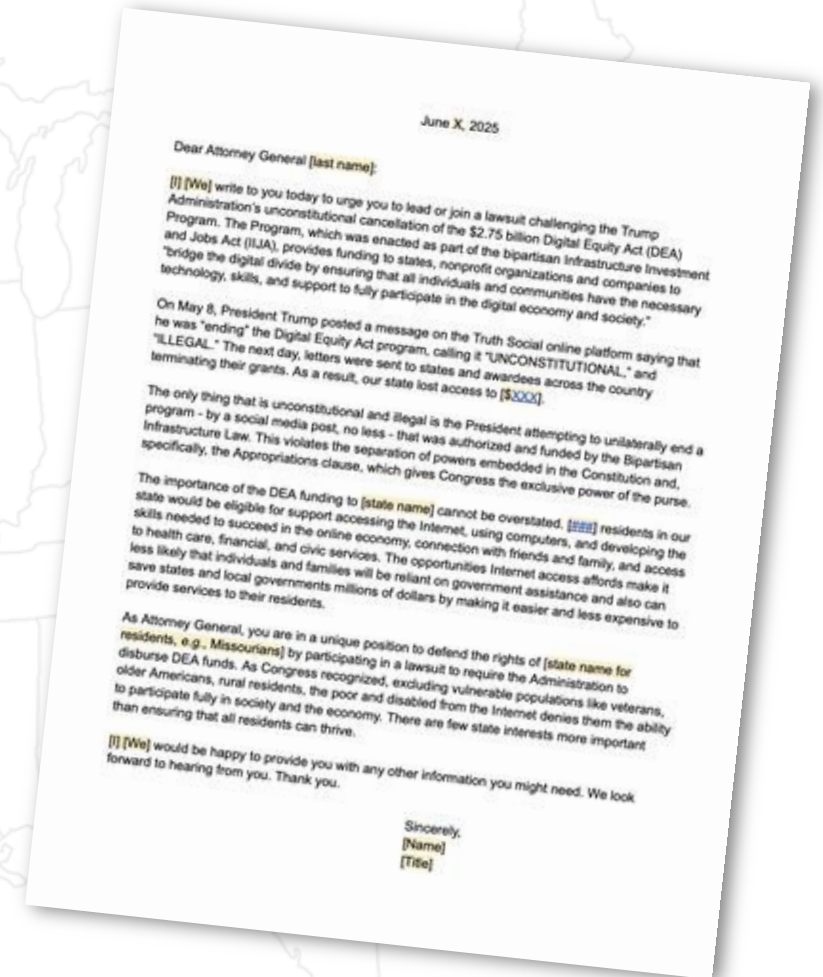
Best Defense: Attorneys General

- Consider sending letter to your attorney general
- It's likely that only states that sue will get relief
- Vermont (and many others) are already moving forward.

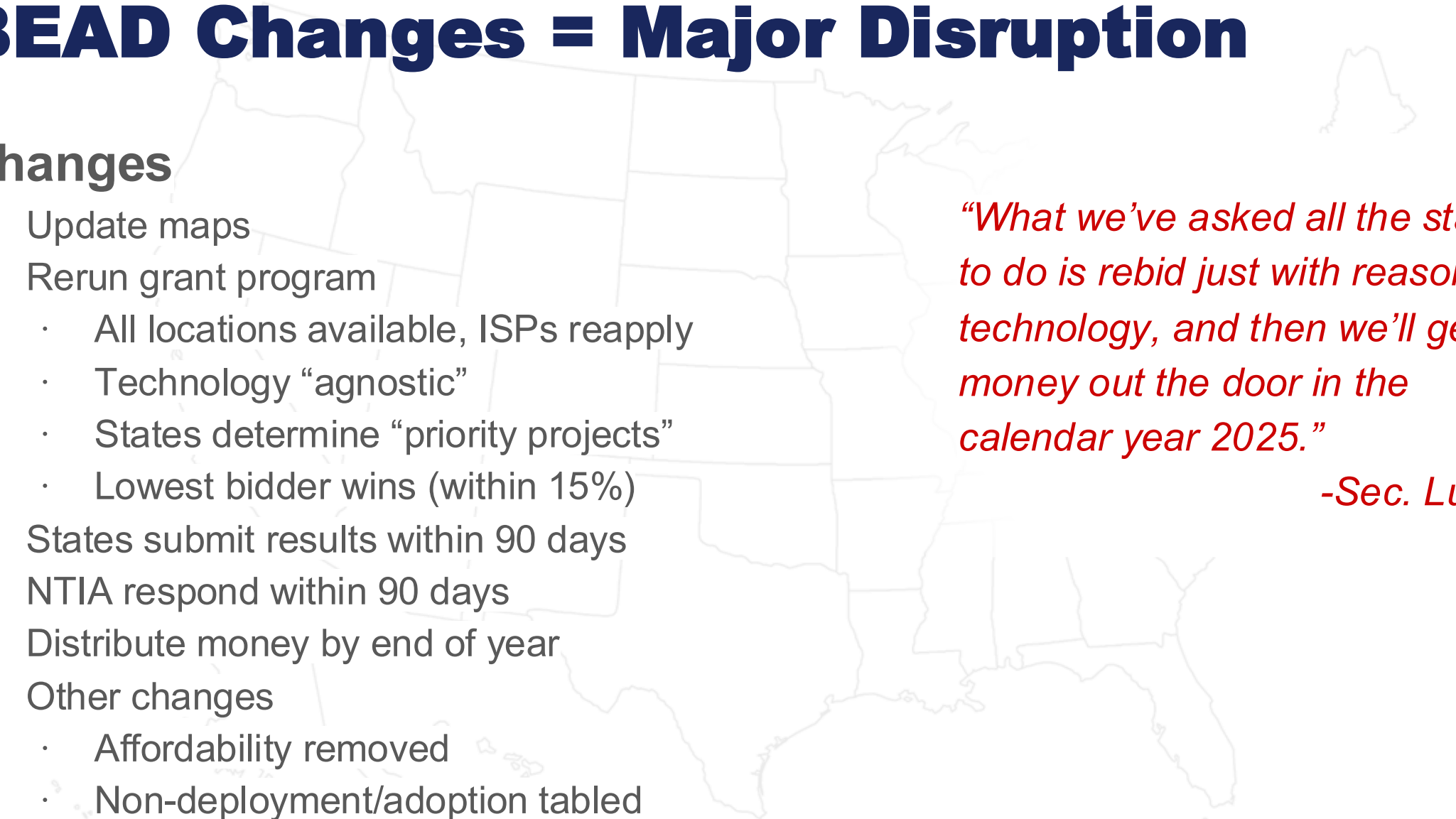
We Can Help

- Easy to use template letter
- We can help you fill it in

Email: dgarner@benton.org



BEAD Changes = Major Disruption



Changes

- Update maps
- Rerun grant program
 - All locations available, ISPs reapply
 - Technology “agnostic”
 - States determine “priority projects”
 - Lowest bidder wins (within 15%)
- States submit results within 90 days
- NTIA respond within 90 days
- Distribute money by end of year
- Other changes
 - Affordability removed
 - Non-deployment/adoption tabled

“What we’ve asked all the states to do is rebid just with reasonable technology, and then we’ll get the money out the door in the calendar year 2025.”

-Sec. Lutnick

Federal News



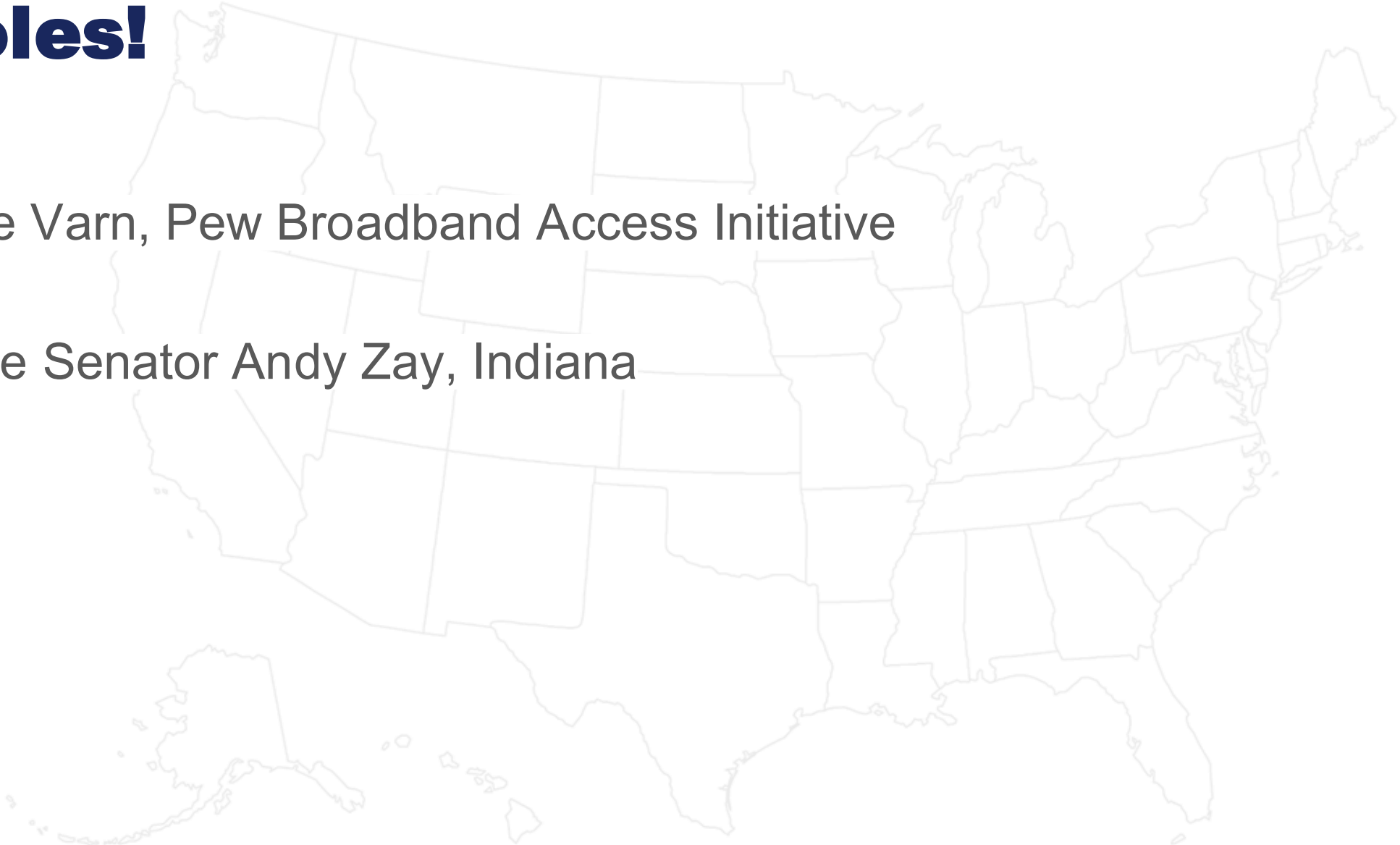
FCC Loses Two Commissioners

- Simington (R) and Starks (D) stepping down Friday
- Carr (R) and Gomez (D) remain.
- 1-1 Commission doesn't meet quorum, limiting ability to act
- Nominee, Olivia Trusty (R), is awaiting confirmation in the Senate

Poles!

Jake Varn, Pew Broadband Access Initiative

State Senator Andy Zay, Indiana



Special Session on BEAD Next Week?



Contact Information



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