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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Rural Development



The Importance of e-connectivity for Agriculture & Rural Prosperity

Agricultural Outlook Forum

February 22, 2018

Agriculture & Rural Prosperity Task Force



RURAL PROSPERITY

**Rural America can make
our country great again.**

“The Task Force shall identify legislative, regulatory, and policy changes to promote in rural America agriculture, economic development, job growth, infrastructure improvements, technological innovation, energy security, and quality of life...”

- President Trump, April 25, 2017

Agriculture & Rural Prosperity Task Force



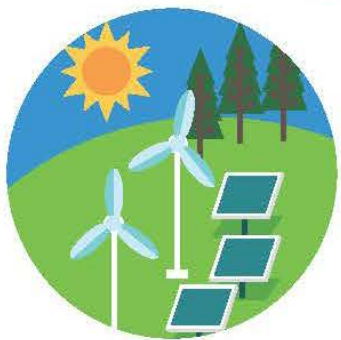
Agriculture & Rural Prosperity Task Force





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Access to Capital
- Tax Reform
- Natural Resources
- Regulatory Reform
- Global Market
- Infrastructure



INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

- Biotechnology
- Sound Science
- Productivity
- Research
- Development



WORKFORCE

- Available
- Skilled
- Trained
- Educated
- Reliable



QUALITY OF LIFE

- Educational Opportunities
- Health Services
- Rural Housing
- Community Resiliency
- Infrastructure

E-connectivity: “Electronic Connectivity”



...connecting households, schools, and healthcare systems to each other and the rest of the world through high-speed internet.



...increasing productivity for farms, factories, forests, mining, & small businesses.

E-connectivity: “Digital superhighway” of the 21st Century



...it's the modern day equivalent of rural electrification (1936), connecting rural telephone systems (1934), the Interstate Highway System (1956), and a “must have” for America's competitiveness today and in the coming decades.

Our Call to Action

1. Establish Executive Leadership to Expand E-connectivity Across Rural America
2. Assess State of Rural E-connectivity
3. Reduce Regulatory Barriers to Infrastructure Deployment
4. Assess Efficacy of Current Programs
5. Incentivize Private Capital Investments



The Importance of E-Connectivity

2018 Agricultural Outlook Forum



Moderator

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