

CWA

PROTECT OUR WORK

Make Sure that Public Funding Supports Fiber Buildout.

The 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law included \$42 billion in funding to build out internet infrastructure.

CWA members have worked hard to ensure those funds will be used to build reliable, high-speed fiber and create good, union telecom jobs. Because of that work, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration has prioritized investment in fiber.

But now the **future of that funding is in jeopardy**. Satellite company CEOs are pushing to funnel more of the money intended for fiber buildout to **unreliable satellite internet service**.¹ Satellite employs fewer workers—and there are currently no union-represented satellite internet providers.

Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Ted Cruz has called for broader use of “alternative technologies” to fiber,² and senior Trump Administration officials have testified against “preferring fiber builds.”³ **The outcome of this debate will have huge impacts on the success of this buildout and the creation of good union jobs.**

TAKE ACTION

Tell the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to stand up to pressure to redirect funds to unreliable satellite internet service and continue to create good, union jobs by investing in reliable, high-speed fiber internet.



**Scan the QR code or visit
CWA.org/ProtectOurWork**

1. Newsweek, “Satellite May Sound Like the Future, But it Could Stick Broadband Users in the Past,” <https://www.newsweek.com/satellite-may-sound-like-future-it-could-stick-broadband-users-past-1824701>.

2. Letter from Senator Ted Cruz, et al to Assistant Secretary of Commerce Alan Davidson, https://www.thune.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/d4e51503-5d28-4744-9033-18c9e38da22d/C3ACEFE761F313B6ABBD99AC63692025.as4.20.2023-bead-nofo-letter-to-ntia-1-.pdf

3. Testimony of FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr. <https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Carr-Testimony.pdf>

THE RISKS OF SATELLITE INTERNET

CWA

Satellite company CEOs are pushing the U.S. Commerce Department and state broadband offices to **prioritize funding for unreliable satellite internet service** and cut back on plans to build fiber optic internet connections.¹

Policy makers, telecom workers, and consumers should be very skeptical of satellite technology.

Satellite is not a long-term connectivity solution. It does not provide the speed and reliability that families and businesses need to keep up with online video and interactive content. And there's little room for growth: **satellite connection speeds go down with an increase in users.**²

Satellites also have higher recurring costs. The ongoing infrastructure cost - purchasing and launching new satellites - is enormous. The companies themselves say satellites only have a five-year life span, after which they require another big investment.³

Satellite employs fewer workers and there are currently no union-represented satellite internet providers.

Public funds should help create good, union jobs in our communities, not to boost the profits of billionaire-owned satellite companies.

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FIBER vs SATELLITE

SPEED

Fiber → High

Satellite → Limited

LIFESPAN

Fiber → 20-40 years

Satellite → 5 years

WEATHER DISRUPTIONS

Fiber → No

Satellite → Yes

1. Fierce Wireless, What the Trump win could mean for the BEAD program, <https://www.fierce-network.com/broadband/what-trump-win-could-mean-bead-program>

2. Newsweek, "Satellite May Sound Like the Future, But it Could Stick Broadband Users in the Past," www.newsweek.com/satellite-may-sound-like-future-it-could-stick-broadband-users-past-1824701

3. Space Magazine, Starlink satellites: Facts, tracking and impact on astronomy, <https://www.space.com/spacex-starlink-satellites.html>