STATE OF KANSAS

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GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-67

Establishing the Office of Broadband Development

WHEREAS, access to broadband is essential to the prosperity and quality of life of all Kansans;

WHEREAS, broadband is vital to commerce, the economic vitality of communities, and Kansas' global competitiveness;

WHEREAS, technological innovation is transforming the nature of jobs, businesses, education, health care, economic development, and consumer services;

WHEREAS, broadband enables the use of connected agriculture technology, which the USDA's Economic Research Service indicates can increase agricultural output by more than 18 percent;

WHEREAS, broadband is vital to the delivery of education, health care, transportation services, public safety, emergency response, and other critical services;

WHEREAS, rural communities rely on access to affordable broadband network services to grow rural economies, connect students and teachers to online resources, and enable closer connections among businesses, families, and other Kansas communities;

WHEREAS, access to affordable, high quality broadband levels the economic playing field, facilitates social mobility, and stimulates job creation; and

WHEREAS, the State of Kansas seeks to promote access to advanced broadband network services, to increase consumer options, and to promote constructive access and affordability for all Kansans in order to maximize economic growth and quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Kansas, I hereby direct and order the following:

1. The Office of Broadband Development is created within the Kansas Department of Commerce. The Office of Broadband Development shall:

    a. Evaluate, and report annually on, the extent, quality, and affordability of broadband offerings in Kansas;

    b. Develop strategies to facilitate construction of broadband infrastructure necessary to achieve functionally universal broadband access for Kansas homes and businesses;

c. Develop and advocate for policies that make high quality broadband service more accessible, affordable, and reliable in underserved and vulnerable communities;

d. Take such steps as are necessary to implement those strategies, including, but not limited to:

   i. Promoting access to, and use of, the highest quality broadband networks for all Kansans in order to effectively compete in the digital economy and improve their quality of life;

   ii. Working to accelerate statewide deployment of high capacity/quality broadband infrastructure capable of meeting current business and community needs, and scalable to meet future demands;

   iii. Advocating for adoption of streamlined public policies that remove barriers to and support broadband infrastructure deployment at the state and local level to close the continuing digital divide;

   iv. Developing broadband investment and deployment strategies for unserved and underserved areas;

   v. Promoting private sector, public sector, and cooperative broadband solutions as appropriate to each region of Kansas;

   vi. Supporting local and regional broadband planning;

   vii. Pursuing and leveraging federal sources of broadband funding to achieve state broadband goals;

   viii. Generating public awareness of the value of broadband technologies and applications;

   ix. Promoting digital equity, ensuring all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our economy and way of life.

   x. Engaging with stakeholders, elected officials, government officials, tribal governments, electric utilities, healthcare providers, educators, businesses, the agriculture sector, public safety entities, consumers, community leaders, and broadband service providers to facilitate communication and aggregate the demand of the different segments of the community to help make a business case for broadband investment;

   xi. Developing and maintaining a broadband map as a platform for data collection to track the availability of broadband services, government investments, and progress, as well as other related information, and provide public access to the data;

xii. Convening relevant state and federal agencies and advising the Governor, state agency leadership, and the Kansas Congressional Delegation on actions to leverage state government activities to pursue state goals related to broadband.

2. The Office of Broadband Development shall be led by the Director of Broadband Initiatives and shall be supported by such other personnel as the Kansas Department of Commerce shall commit.

3. All Kansas executive branch agencies, authorities, and departments shall support the work of, and coordinate with, the Office of Broadband and shall lend support to such work to the greatest extent possible without compromising existing responsibilities of those agencies, authorities, and departments.

This document shall be filed with the Secretary of State as Executive Order No. 20-67. It shall become effective immediately and remain in force until rescinded.

THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE BY THE GOVERNOR

DATED 10.8.2020

FILED
OCT 08 2020
SCOTT SCHWAB
SECRETARY OF STATE

Secretary of State

Assistant Secretary of State