PCCA Government & Industry Affairs Roundtable

PCCA Convention
Friday, September 24, 2020
Nashville, Tennessee
Overview

- RUS Re-Connect Pilot
- PCCA Representation
  - BDAC II - Job Skills Working Group
  - FCC/RUS Precision Ag Task Force
- American Connection Project
- Damage Prevention Initiatives
- DOT FMCSA
RUS ReConnect Pilot Program

- $600 million in Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018
- Grants, loan/grant combinations, straight loans
- Program to “facilitate broadband deployment in areas of rural America that don’t currently have sufficient access to broadband.”
- “Insufficient Service” - 90% households without fixed broadband service of 10/1 Mbps

FY 2021

- House Agriculture Appropriations:
  - $990 million for the ReConnect program
    - An increase of $435 million over last year, or 78%
Other Broadband Funding

- $1.055 billion for rural broadband expansion, including $990 million for the ReConnect program (an increase of $435 million, or 78%)

- Also of PCCA interest is $6.9 billion in loan authority for rural electric (and telephone) infrastructure loans

- In addition, direct FCC funding included in the House Appropriations Financial Services/General Government Bill:

  - **Federal Communications Commission (FCC)** – The bill includes $376.1 million for the FCC, an increase of $37.1 million above the FY 2020 enacted level. This includes funding to implement new broadband mapping legislation.

  - Includes $61 billion in emergency funding for the FCC to expand availability of broadband to unserved areas, as well as multi-year funding for broadband mapping and replacement of telecommunications equipment deemed to pose a national security threat to the United States.
FCC/RUS Precision Ag Task Force

Todd Myers, Kenneth G. Myers Construction Company
American Connection Project

Tucker Dotson, Ditch Witch
DOT FMCSA

- Implementation of HOS reforms delayed into 2021
- Pilot program for interstate drivers (commercial)
BDAC II - Job Skills Working Group

Steve Sellenriek, Sellenriek Construction
Damage Prevention

- Letters to Governors
- Gold Shovel Standard Discussions
- Common Ground Alliance
DOT / FMCSA

- Implementation of HOS Reforms
- Interstate Drivers - 18-year old divers
Questions?