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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to report to Congress on any barriers to establishing online portals to accept, process, and dispose of certain Form 299s, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to report to Congress on any barriers to establishing online portals to accept, process, and dispose of certain Form 299s, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Facilitating the De-
5 ployment of Infrastructure with Greater Internet Trans-

1 actions And Legacy Applications Act” or the “Facilitating
2 DIGITAL Applications Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON BARRIERS TO ESTABLISHING ONLINE**
4 **PORTALS TO ACCEPT, PROCESS, AND DIS-**
5 **POSE OF CERTAIN FORM 299s.**

6 (a) REPORT.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
8 the date of the enactment of this section, and every
9 60 days thereafter until the Secretaries concerned
10 each notify the Assistant Secretary under paragraph
11 (2), the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the ap-
12 propriate congressional committees a report that de-
13 scribes—

14 (A) whether the Secretaries concerned have
15 established, with respect to the relevant covered
16 department, an online portal for the acceptance,
17 processing, and disposal of a Form 299 for
18 communications use authorization;

19 (B) any barrier to the establishment of any
20 such portal; and

21 (C) whether any such portal was estab-
22 lished consistent with—

23 (i) the objectives identified in section
24 110 of the National Environmental Policy
25 Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336d); and

1 (ii) the results of the study required
2 under such section with respect to any per-
3 mit that requires review under such Act.

4 (2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 3 business
5 days after the date on which the online portal has
6 been established by a Secretary pursuant to para-
7 graph (1), that Secretary shall notify the Assistant
8 Secretary of the establishment of such portal.

9 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
11 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
12 mittees” means—

13 (A) the Committee on Energy and Com-
14 merce of the House of Representatives;

15 (B) the Committee on Natural Resources
16 of the House of Representatives;

17 (C) the Committee on Agriculture of the
18 House of Representatives;

19 (D) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
20 and Transportation of the Senate;

21 (E) the Committee on Environment and
22 Public Works of the Senate; and

23 (F) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
24 tion, and Forestry of the Senate.

1 (2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assist-
2 ant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of
3 Commerce for Communications and Information.

4 (3) COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY.—The term
5 “communications facility” has the meaning given the
6 term “communications facility installation” in sec-
7 tion 6409(d) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job
8 Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1455(d)).

9 (4) COMMUNICATIONS USE.—The term “com-
10 munications use” means the placement and oper-
11 ation of a communications facility.

12 (5) COMMUNICATIONS USE AUTHORIZATION.—
13 The term “communications use authorization”
14 means an easement, right-of-way, lease, license, or
15 other authorization—

16 (A) provided by the Secretary of the Inte-
17 rior or the Secretary of Agriculture;

18 (B) to locate or modify a communications
19 facility on covered land; and

20 (C) for the primary purpose of authorizing
21 the occupancy and use of such covered land for
22 communications use.

23 (6) COVERED LAND.—The term “covered land”
24 means—

25 (A) public lands; and

1 (B) National Forest System land.

2 (7) FORM 299.—The term “Form 299” means
3 the form established under section 6409(b)(2)(A) of
4 the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act
5 of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1455(b)(2)(A)), or any successor
6 form.

7 (8) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—The term
8 “National Forest System” has the meaning given
9 that term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Range-
10 land Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16
11 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

12 (9) RELEVANT COVERED DEPARTMENT.—The
13 term “relevant covered department” means—

14 (A) with respect to the Secretary of the In-
15 terior, the Department of the Interior; and

16 (B) with respect to the Secretary of Agri-
17 culture, the Department of Agriculture.

18 (10) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term
19 “Secretary concerned” means—

20 (A) the Secretary of the Interior; and

21 (B) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting
22 through the Chief of the Forest Service.