



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE TRUST LANDS
RESOLUTION 2020-02**

Rural Broadband

Whereas, the National Association of State Trust Lands and its member states manage over 500 million acres of trust lands, minerals, and waterways; and

Whereas, members of WSLCA have state constitutional mandates to manage millions of acres of lands for economic development, public education, conservation, recreation, and other public purposes provided by state law; and

Whereas, the National Association of State Trust Lands (“NASTL”) and its member states manage over 515 million acres of trust lands, minerals, and waterways; and

Whereas, members of NASTL have state constitutional mandates to manage millions of acres of lands for economic development, public education, conservation, recreation, and other public purposes provided by state law; and

Whereas, NASTL members have a strong public interest in the continued deployment and use of broadband services to meet the needs for each member state’s communities, including economic development, healthcare, education, manufacturing, agriculture, public safety, and participation in government and society; and

Whereas, NASTL member states have adopted various broadband goals for universal access and high-speed broadband service to ensure that all businesses and homes have access to at least one broadband provider, particularly in this time of pandemic with increased teleworking and distance learning; and

Whereas, NASTL member states recognize their unique ability to collaborate and facilitate real estate transactions with broadband providers to address each states’ broadband needs, barriers and goals for broadband access; and

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Whereas, NASTL member states recognize the opportunities to coordinate with federal, state and local units of government to deliver broadband in each state;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. NASTL urges the U.S. Congress to continue its financial support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture ReConnect Program that provides grants and loans for broadband deployment in areas lacking sufficient broadband; and
2. NASTL urges the U.S. Congress to continue its financial support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Distance Learning and Telemedicine program that provides financial assistance to enable and improve distance learning and telemedicine in rural areas, particularly during this time of pandemic; and
3. NASTL urges the U.S. Congress to continue its financial support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture RUS Community Connect Program for the construction of broadband service of at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload to currently unserved, lower income and extremely rural areas; and
4. NASTL urges the U.S. Congress to continue its financial support for the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) that encourages banks to make loans and investments and provide services to low- and moderate-income communities, which now includes broadband infrastructure investments as being important to economic development for revitalizing and stabilizing low-and moderate-income communities.

Adopted this 15th day of July, 2020.



President, WSLCA



Secretary, WSLCA

*This Resolution will remain in effect through July 31, 2022
unless otherwise terminated, amended, or replaced by the Association.*