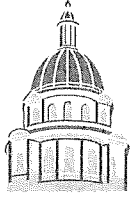


Sen. Kevin Priola, *Chair*  
Sen. Mark Baisley  
Sen. Lisa Cutter

Rep. Brianna Titone, *Vice-Chair*  
Rep. Jennifer Parenti  
Rep. Ron Weinberg



## Joint Technology Committee

State Capitol Building, Room 029  
Denver, Colorado 80203-1784  
(303) 866-3521



February 10, 2023

Anthony Neal-Graves,  
Office of Information Technology, Executive Director  
601 E. 18th Ave., Suite 250,  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Neal-Graves,

Thank you for your leadership and that of the Colorado Broadband Office (CBO) in the ongoing effort to close Colorado's digital divide and ensure that every Coloradan has access to affordable, high-speed broadband.

With the potential of nearly one billion dollars in federal broadband funding coming to Colorado in the near future, the State is at a critical moment. These unprecedented funds must be used efficiently to ensure that they can go as far as possible and meet the broadband availability and access goals of all Coloradans. This is truly a once-in-a-generation opportunity.

However, without detailed input from the stakeholders who will ultimately be charged with building the broadband networks and implementing digital access programs – local governments and internet service providers of all types, as well as the ultimate broadband users who stand to benefit – we are concerned this full potential of this rare opportunity may go unrealized.

That is why we were concerned to learn the CBO will not be seeking public comment on its draft Capitol Project Funds (CPF) rules before they are finalized. **We strongly encourage OIT and CBO to follow the lead of several other states like Florida, Texas, Oregon, and Washington that have published draft Capital Projects Rules with an open comment period.**

This process is key to providing an avenue for interested partners to identify problems, seek clarifications, or request amendments to maximize the success of the program. *And it should go without saying that seeking public comment on important draft rules is simply a fundamental tenet of open and effective government.*

The risk of *not* seeking input from stakeholders ultimately charged with executing the CPF funding is obvious. If the rules are impractical or overly burdensome to administer by stakeholders, the State will see fewer and lower quality grant applications. And the precedents OIT and CBO set now in the CPF program will ultimately have an effect when the much more consequential BEAD funding (reported to range from \$500-800 million) arrives.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and the CBO to address the challenges and opportunities that lie before us in connecting every citizen across the State to broadband access

and digital opportunities. Thank you for your attention to these important issues, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Senator Kevin Priola  
Chair, Joint Technology Committee

c: Joint Technology Committee Members  
Joint Budget Committee Members  
Lauren Larson, Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting  
Megan Davisson, Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting  
Michael McReynolds, Office of Information Technology  
Carolyn Kampman, Joint Budget Committee Staff  
Scott Thompson, Joint Budget Committee Staff  
Joint Technology Committee Staff