



American Wire Producers Association

908 King St., Ste 320  
Alexandria, VA 22314

April 12, 2024

The Honorable Alan Davidson  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Herbert C. Hoover Building (HCHB)  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: BEAD Program and BABA

Dear Mr. Assistant Secretary:

On behalf of the members of the American Wire Producers Association (“AWPA”), we are submitting this request for clarification with respect to the interface of the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program and the availability of waivers for steel inputs under the Build America, Buy America Act (BABA).

Our members manufacture steel wire and wire products at more than 200 facilities in 35 states, and they welcomed the enactment of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) which promises significant opportunities for U.S. manufacturers. In particular, they understand that the BEAD program will promote the acquisition of American-made materials for nationwide Internet service that is affordable, reliable, and secure. Our members are well positioned and eager to supply American-made steel wire and wire products for the program.

However, the attached notice from the U.S. Department of Commerce (“Commerce”) regarding the “Nonavailability Waiver of the Buy America Domestic Content Procurement Preference” has been interpreted by some industry actors as extending the waiver provision of the BEAD program to steel inputs (even where there is domestic production available), whereas Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) – which administers the BEAD program – has reportedly told at least one U.S. manufacturer that the BABA provision on steel applies and waivers are not available unless the product is not available domestically.

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Page 2

We would be grateful for confirmation that the BABA provision on sourcing steel inputs applies to the BEAD program.

On behalf of the members of the AWPA, we are grateful for your attention to our request.

Very truly yours,

*Timothy W Becker*

Timothy Becker  
President, American Wire Producers Association  
President, Hickory Springs Mfg.

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Page 3