

Amy Klobuchar

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a task force for meeting the connectivity and technology needs of precision agriculture in the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—115th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. _____

To provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2023, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Ms. KLOBUCHAR

8 Fischer Thune

Viz:

1 At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **SEC. 125 ____ . PRECISION AGRICULTURE CONNECTIVITY.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Precision agriculture technologies and prac-
6 tices allow farmers to significantly increase crop
7 yields, eliminate overlap in operations, and reduce
8 inputs such as seed, fertilizer, pesticides, water, and
9 fuel.

1 (2) These technologies allow farmers to collect
2 data in real time about their fields, automate field
3 management, and maximize resources.

4 (3) Studies estimate that precision agriculture
5 technologies can reduce agricultural operation costs
6 by up to 25 dollars per acre and increase farm yields
7 by up to 70 percent by 2050.

8 (4) The critical cost savings and productivity
9 benefits of precision agriculture cannot be realized
10 without the availability of reliable broadband Inter-
11 net access service delivered to the agricultural land
12 of the United States.

13 (5) The deployment of broadband Internet ac-
14 cess service to unserved agricultural land is critical
15 to the United States economy and to the continued
16 leadership of the United States in global food pro-
17 duction.

18 (6) Despite the growing demand for broadband
19 Internet access service on agricultural land,
20 broadband Internet access service is not consistently
21 available where needed for agricultural operations.

22 (7) The Federal Communications Commission
23 has an important role to play in the deployment of
24 broadband Internet access service on unserved agri-
25 cultural land to promote precision agriculture.

1 (b) TASK FORCE.—

2 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

3 (A) the term “broadband Internet access
4 service” has the meaning given the term in sec-
5 tion 8.2 of title 47, Code of Federal Regula-
6 tions, or any successor regulation;

7 (B) the term “Commission” means the
8 Federal Communications Commission;

9 (C) the term “Department” means the De-
10 partment of Agriculture; and

11 (D) the term “Task Force” means the
12 Task Force for Reviewing the Connectivity and
13 Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in
14 the United States established under paragraph
15 (2).

16 (2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year
17 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commis-
18 sion shall establish the Task Force for Reviewing
19 the Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision
20 Agriculture in the United States.

21 (3) DUTIES.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall
23 consult with the Secretary, or a designee of the
24 Secretary, and collaborate with public and pri-

1 vate stakeholders in the agriculture and tech-
2 nology fields to—

3 (i) identify and measure current gaps
4 in the availability of broadband Internet
5 access service on agricultural land;

6 (ii) develop policy recommendations to
7 promote the rapid, expanded deployment of
8 broadband Internet access service on
9 unserved agricultural land, with a goal of
10 achieving reliable capabilities on 95 per-
11 cent of agricultural land in the United
12 States by 2025;

13 (iii) promote effective policy and regu-
14 latory solutions that encourage the adop-
15 tion of broadband Internet access service
16 on farms and ranches and promote preci-
17 sion agriculture;

18 (iv) recommend specific new rules or
19 amendments to existing rules of the Com-
20 mission that the Commission should issue
21 to achieve the goals and purposes of the
22 policy recommendations described in clause
23 (ii);

24 (v) recommend specific steps that the
25 Commission should take to obtain reliable

1 and standardized data measurements of
2 the availability of broadband Internet ac-
3 cess service as may be necessary to target
4 funding support, from future programs of
5 the Commission dedicated to the deploy-
6 ment of broadband Internet access service,
7 to unserved agricultural land in need of
8 broadband Internet access service; and

9 (vi) recommend specific steps that the
10 Commission should consider to ensure that
11 the expertise of the Secretary and available
12 farm data are reflected in future programs
13 of the Commission dedicated to the infra-
14 structure deployment of broadband Inter-
15 net access service and to direct available
16 funding to unserved agricultural land
17 where needed.

18 (B) NO DUPLICATE DATA REPORTING.—In
19 performing the duties of the Commission under
20 subparagraph (A), the Commission shall ensure
21 that no provider of broadband Internet access
22 service is required to report data to the Com-
23 mission that is, on the day before the date of
24 enactment of this Act, required to be reported

1 by the provider of broadband Internet access
2 service.

3 (C) HOLD HARMLESS.—The Task Force
4 and the Commission shall not interpret the
5 phrase “future programs of the Commission”,
6 as used in clauses (v) and (vi) of subparagraph
7 (A), to include the universal service programs
8 of the Commission established under section
9 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
10 U.S.C. 254).

11 (D) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary, or a
12 designee of the Secretary, shall explain and
13 make available to the Task Force the expertise,
14 data mapping information, and resources of the
15 Department that the Department uses to iden-
16 tify cropland, rangeland, and other areas with
17 agricultural operations that may be helpful in
18 developing the recommendations required under
19 subparagraph (A).

20 (E) LIST OF AVAILABLE FEDERAL PRO-
21 GRAMS AND RESOURCES.—Not later than 180
22 days after the date of enactment of this Act,
23 the Secretary and the Commission shall jointly
24 submit to the Task Force a list of all Federal
25 programs or resources available for the expan-

1 sion of broadband Internet access service on
2 unserved agricultural land to assist the Task
3 Force in carrying out the duties of the Task
4 Force.

5 (4) MEMBERSHIP.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall
7 be—

8 (i) composed of not more than 15 vot-
9 ing members who shall—

10 (I) be selected by the Chairman
11 of the Commission; and

12 (II) include—

13 (aa) agricultural producers
14 representing diverse geographic
15 regions and farm sizes, including
16 owners and operators of farms of
17 less than 100 acres;

18 (bb) an agricultural pro-
19 ducer representing tribal agri-
20 culture;

21 (cc) Internet service pro-
22 viders, including regional or rural
23 fixed and mobile broadband
24 Internet access service providers

1 and telecommunications infra-
2 structure providers;

3 (dd) representatives from
4 the electric cooperative industry;

5 (ee) representatives from the
6 satellite industry;

7 (ff) representatives from
8 precision agriculture equipment
9 manufacturers, including drone
10 manufacturers, manufacturers of
11 autonomous agricultural machin-
12 ery, and manufacturers of farm-
13 ing robotics technologies; and

14 (gg) representatives from
15 State and local governments; and

16 (ii) fairly balanced in terms of tech-
17 nologies, points of view, and fields rep-
18 resented on the Task Force.

19 (B) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACAN-
20 CIES.—

21 (i) IN GENERAL.—A member of the
22 Committee appointed under subparagraph
23 (A)(i) shall serve for a single term of 2
24 years.

1 (ii) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the
2 Task Force—

3 (I) shall not affect the powers of
4 the Task Force; and

5 (II) shall be filled in the same
6 manner as the original appointment.

7 (C) EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.—The Secretary,
8 or a designee of the Secretary, shall serve as an
9 ex-officio, nonvoting member of the Task Force.

10 (5) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the
11 date on which the Commission establishes the Task
12 Force, and annually thereafter, the Task Force shall
13 submit to the Chairman of the Commission a report,
14 which shall be made public not later than 30 days
15 after the date on which the Chairman receives the
16 report, that details—

17 (A) the status of fixed and mobile
18 broadband Internet access service coverage of
19 agricultural land;

20 (B) the projected future connectivity needs
21 of agricultural operations, farmers, and ranch-
22 ers; and

23 (C) the steps being taken to accurately
24 measure the availability of broadband Internet
25 access service on agricultural land and the limi-

1 tations of current, as of the date of the report,
2 measurement processes.

3 (6) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall
4 renew the Task Force every 2 years until the Task
5 Force terminates on January 1, 2025.