



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

RURAL BROADBAND WEEK

2020

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, broadband is the high-bandwidth transmission that enables access to high-speed internet; and

WHEREAS, high-speed internet connectivity is critical to the way North Carolina residents work, learn and interact; and

WHEREAS, for those that have it, broadband allows more affordable and efficient access to education, healthcare, public safety, commerce, and government; but for those that don't have it, a digital divide hinders them from accessing needed resources; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the increased need for broadband as North Carolinians seek to connect with healthcare providers, telework, participate in remote learning, and connect with friends and family; and

WHEREAS, the majority of our state is rural and faces physical and financial barriers to broadband access and adoption; connecting more rural North Carolinians to high-speed internet requires innovation of infrastructure to attract market-based expansion and community support; and

WHEREAS, the traditional calendar public school year starts the week of August 17th with many schools using a remote learning plan and looking to rapidly deploy resources to connect students; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Rural Broadband Week seeks to increase public knowledge and prompt community action to improve broadband access and adoption across our state; and

WHEREAS, it is my priority to expand broadband infrastructure in rural areas of the state, provide more affordable access, and remove barriers to broadband adoption that will close the digital divide;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim August 17 – 21, 2020, as "**RURAL BROADBAND WEEK**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this seventh day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.