

While there is much to be excited about with 5G, we must recognize that we still need 3G and 4G. The question of today though, is how do we ensure that 5G solutions and applications are deployed in rural America.

1. **Innovate**-First, we must continue to invest in our wireless infrastructure in rural America and build on our commitment to ensure that we are the best connected country in the world. Through wireless technology and ubiquitous rural coverage, we can become more efficient in the production of goods and services that benefit all of America.
2. **Funding**-The FCC is about to embark on further Universal Service reform through its Mobility Fund Phase II process. We must ensure that enough funding is available to further invest in and expand wireless infrastructure in rural America.
3. **Spectrum**-Equitable access to licensed spectrum is critical. We need to ensure that valuable spectrum is not warehoused by just a few large national carriers and only put to good use in urban America. Perhaps a divide and conquer approach would be best. In other words, lets get the spectrum into hundreds of providers through the secondary spectrum market and hold them accountable to putting it to good use. In the end, all American consumers will benefit.
4. **Partnerships**-We must create strategic relationships between those willing to provide 5G services in rural areas and those in need of 5G rural services. Rural service providers need to come together with:
 - First Responders for public safety needs;
 - Health care providers for telemedicine and telehealth services;
 - Farmers and ranchers for precision agriculture, tracking products from farm to table and for Smart Ag applications;
 - Energy producers utilizing sustainable energy sources (solar, wind, hydraulic, biofuel) and fossil fuels (natural gas, petroleum and coal) for producing electricity used to power our lives.

5. **Technology**-Equipment manufacturers and vendors must work to provide lower cost solutions for 5G equipment in rural America.

- 5G Networks must be interoperable and roaming must be required of all providers to ensure seamless service between urban and rural America.
- None of the major manufacturers of wireless network equipment and wireless end user devices are U.S. based companies today. We need to accept that fact and do more to promote competition amongst all vendors in order to lower the cost of deployment for the service providers, while lowering the cost of the service to the consumer.
- While urban America will see the benefits of 5G manufactured equipment first, 5G equipment also has a place in rural areas and equipment manufacturers should be mindful of the needs and applications in rural America.

While 5G may be a bit further out for rural areas, by including a rural perspective on 5G and bringing us together today, Commissioner Clyburn has shown the leadership necessary to create 5G solutions that benefit all of America. On behalf of Sagebrush Cellular and the Rural Wireless Association, I would like to thank her for her leadership and dedication to rural America.

Rural America and Urban America are symbiotic and together we will thrive
Thank You.