

# **Bond Case Briefs**

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## **How Tax Reform Can Support Rural Broadband.**

Not all U.S. communities are created equal when it comes to broadband deployment and availability. Earlier this year, my colleagues Blair Levin and Carol Matthey [shared the challenges associated with deploying broadband in rural areas](#). According to the authors, it is not only expensive, but it does not necessarily yield a profitable return for private companies.

The gap in high-speed broadband access between rural and urban areas remains wide in the U.S. According to the Federal Communications Commission, 39 percent of rural Americans (23.4 million) lack broadband access to a fixed service with speeds of 25 megabits per second (Mbps) download/3 Mbps upload, while only four percent of urban residents lack access to those speeds. Without access to high-speed broadband, rural residents are severely limited when it comes to economic development, civic engagement, and the other social benefits related to broadband availability and its adoption.

[Continue reading.](#)

### **The Brookings Institute**

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