



April 16, 2018

MEDIA ADVISORY

Coalition works to expand rural e-connectivity

On Wednesday, April 18, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai will join a coalition of stakeholders to launch a series of regional listening sessions targeting the expansion of broadband access in rural America. The launch and subsequent listening session are being organized by Farm Foundation, NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association, CoBank, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC).

WHO WILL PARTICIPATE:

- U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue
- Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai
- Rural Utilities Service Administrator Ken Johnson
- Tennessee Telecommunications Association Executive Director Levoy Knowles
- North Arkansas Electric Cooperative Executive Director Mel Coleman
- Other presenters will include:
 - Constance Cullman, President and CEO, Farm Foundation
 - Shirley Bloomfield, CEO, NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association
 - Jim Matheson, CEO, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)
 - Thomas Halverson, President and CEO, CoBank
 - Sheldon Petersen, CEO, National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp. (CFC)
 - Jannine Miller, USDA Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Infrastructure
 - Joe Swedberg, Chairman of the Board, Farm Foundation

WHAT: Launch of E-Connectivity Listening Sessions

WHERE: Whitten Patio, U.S. Department of Agriculture

WHEN: 9:15 to 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 18, 2018

TO ATTEND: RSVP required by 10 a.m. Tuesday by e-mailing Michelle@farmfoundation.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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