



441 G St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20548

Acting Comptroller General
of the United States

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June 22, 2026

The Honorable Arielle Roth
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Priority Open Recommendations: National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Dear Assistant Secretary Roth:

The purpose of this letter is to call your personal attention to three areas where open recommendations to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) should be given high priority.

In January 2026, we reported that, on a government-wide basis, 77 percent of our recommendations made 5 years ago were implemented.¹ NTIA's recommendation implementation rate was 75 percent. As of May 2026, NTIA has 22 open recommendations, including 10 priority recommendations.² Since our July 2025 letter, NTIA implemented one priority recommendation.³ Fully implementing the remaining priority open recommendations could significantly improve NTIA's operations.

We are highlighting the following areas that warrant your timely and focused attention:

- Managing radio-frequency spectrum. Radio-frequency spectrum is a scarce natural resource used to support an increasing number of public and private-sector activities. NTIA, along with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), regulates and manages spectrum use. We [recommended](#) that NTIA, in consultation with FCC and other relevant federal agencies, monitor and keep up to date its collaboration guidance. We also recommended that NTIA establish shared procedures for the design of spectrum studies that agencies use during domestic and international spectrum management activities. Taking these actions would strengthen NTIA's ability to collaborate with other agencies and better position the U.S. at international conferences where spectrum regulations are updated.

¹GAO, *Performance and Accountability Report, Fiscal Year 2025*, [GAO-26-900644](#) (Washington, D.C.: Jan. 29, 2026).

²GAO considers a recommendation to be a priority if when implemented, it may significantly improve government operations, such as by realizing large dollar savings; eliminating mismanagement, fraud, and abuse; or making progress toward addressing a high-risk or duplication issue.

³GAO, *Priority Open Recommendations: National Telecommunications and Information Administration*, [GAO-25-108178](#) (Washington, D.C.: July 14, 2025). In this letter, we identified 11 priority recommendations. Since then, NTIA implemented one of those recommendations.

- Managing IT and cybersecurity risks to spectrum infrastructure. The security of the IT systems that federal agencies use is vital to protecting national security, especially as risks to these systems increase. NTIA relies on multiple custom IT systems to manage federal spectrum use that are out of date. In 2024, NTIA awarded contracts to support the modernization of these systems. However, we reported that NTIA is missing key [planning](#) and [cybersecurity](#) practices and we recommended NTIA implement these practices. As NTIA continues its modernization efforts, implementing these practices would better ensure the success of these efforts.
- Managing federal broadband programs. Broadband access is critical for economic development. Yet, many communities remain unserved or underserved, particularly in very rural areas and on tribal lands. From 2020 through 2024, statutes appropriated over \$82 billion to programs across multiple agencies to improve access to broadband. We recommended that NTIA better communicate projects' [financial sustainability](#) to Congress and continue to improve [collaboration](#) with other federal providers of broadband funding. Taking these steps will help ensure Congress is properly informed about the finances of NTIA's programs and reduce potential waste in broadband programs.

Several government-wide areas on our [High Risk List](#) have direct implications for NTIA and its operations, including [improving IT acquisitions and management](#) and [ensuring the cybersecurity of the nation](#).⁴ We also identified actions NTIA should take to reduce duplication. For example, we [reported](#) that NTIA should work with other agencies to better manage duplication in their broadband funding processes, which could save ten million dollars or more. More information on our [Duplication and Cost Savings](#) work can be found on the GAO website.

A comprehensive list of open recommendations, including new priority recommendations, and information about their status can be found on the GAO website at [Recommendations Database | U.S. GAO](#). Copies of this letter are being sent to the appropriate congressional committees.⁵ This letter will also be available at [Priority Recommendations | U.S. GAO](#).

We would welcome an opportunity to discuss how to address our open recommendations, as we pursue the shared goal of working to increase efficiency and effectiveness of government programs and spending. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Andrew Von Ah, Director, Physical Infrastructure Team at vonaha@gao.gov. Contact points for our offices of

⁴This list identifies government operations with greater vulnerabilities to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement. GAO, *High-Risk Series: Heightened Attention Could Save Billions More and Improve Government Efficiency and Effectiveness*, [GAO-25-107743](#) (Washington, D.C.: Feb. 25, 2025).

⁵We also help Congress identify congressional oversight actions that can help agencies implement priority recommendations, such as incorporating them into legislation. James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, Pub. L. No. 117-263, § 7211(a)(2), 136 Stat. 2395, 3668 (2022) (codified at 31 U.S.C. § 719 note). Congress can also use its budget, appropriations, and oversight processes to incentivize executive branch agencies to act on our recommendations and monitor their progress. For example, Congress can hold hearings focused on agencies' progress in implementing priority recommendations, withhold funds when appropriate, or take other actions to provide incentives for agencies to act.

Congressional Relations and Media Relations may be found on the last page of this letter.
Thank you for your personal attention to these important issues.

Sincerely,

//SIGNED//

Heather Krause
Managing Director
Physical Infrastructure

cc: Patrick Sullivan, Senior Attorney Advisor, NTIA
AJ Coley, Attorney Advisor, NTIA
Sarah Lamsifer, Attorney Advisor, NTIA
MaryAnn Mausser, GAO Audit Liaison, Department of Commerce