

Talking Points by PRC Commissioner Theresa Becenti-Aguilar
Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee Hearing
September 28, 2020

The regulatory framework of telecommunications is at the heart of many changes. The question for today “are we doing enough.”

My presentation touches several reasons why an accelerated broadband expansion for diverse rural communities is absolutely necessary.

Recognizing diversity helps us to understand the need we have for opportunity, equity, and identity in our modern economy.

Recognizing diversity gives us a chance to provide meaning, fulfillment and purpose of a stronger long term success.

At times like this, there are huge spending in critical areas, and if modern technology are not already integrated into rural diverse communities, it is unlikely that they will suddenly get an opportunity.

New rules, new policies and new legislations are vital to meet the expectations for developing online business, accessing telemedicine services and using online educational tools.

As an invited guest, as a presenter, I am mindful that the increasingly popular belief to find an effective regulatory framework consists of the following:

- 1.) Audit prior year programs funded.
- 2.) Disclose a copy of status report on projects.
- 3.) A detailed listing of Federal Grants.
- 4.) Design audit procedures that are appropriate for the circumstances.
- 5.) Evaluate the appropriateness of rules used.
- 6.) The schedule of expenditures of federal awards.
- 7.) Achieve reasonable assurance in uniform fashion.

I believe that we are enough. Changing the way we think about work, the way we think about leadership.

The Honorable Chairman, Senator Padilla and members of the committee, as one PRC Commissioner's voice, I ask today the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee to support the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission for additional appropriations in the future to create a Compliance Bureau. Additional staff will be needed if considered.