

# PCCA Government and Industry Affairs Roundtable

PCCA Government Affairs  
Committee

March 9, 2021

Naples, Florida



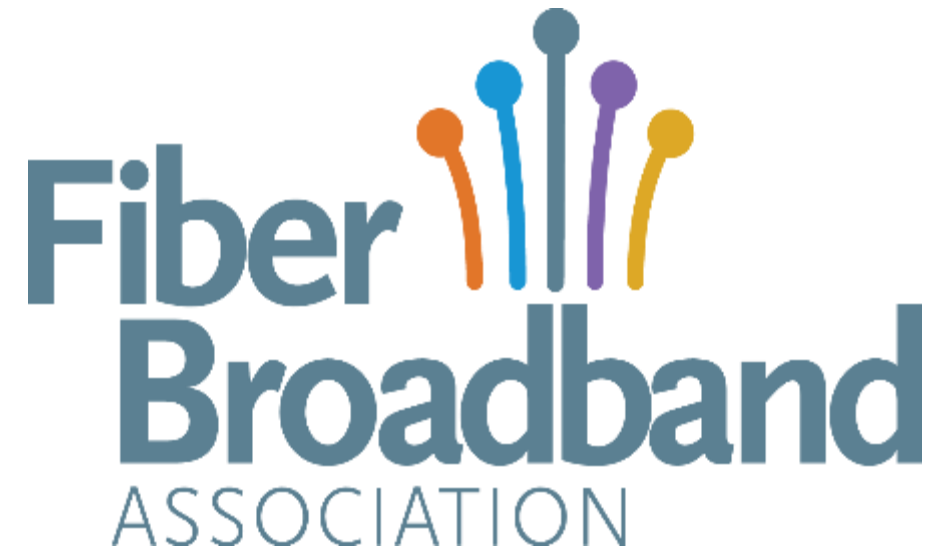
# Overview

- PCCA Government Relations Team
- Fiber Broadband Association – Gary Bolton
- Progress on Broadband Speeds
- Unproven Technologies
- Milestones and Allocation of Federal Dollars
- Accessible, Affordable, Internet for All Act
- Precision Ag Task Force
- BDAC Job Skills Working Group
- National Electric Grid
- Pending Labor Policy Disputes
  - Mandatory PLAs
  - PRO Act
- AEM / OSHA “Demo Day”

# Fiber Broadband Association

**Gary Bolton**

President & CEO



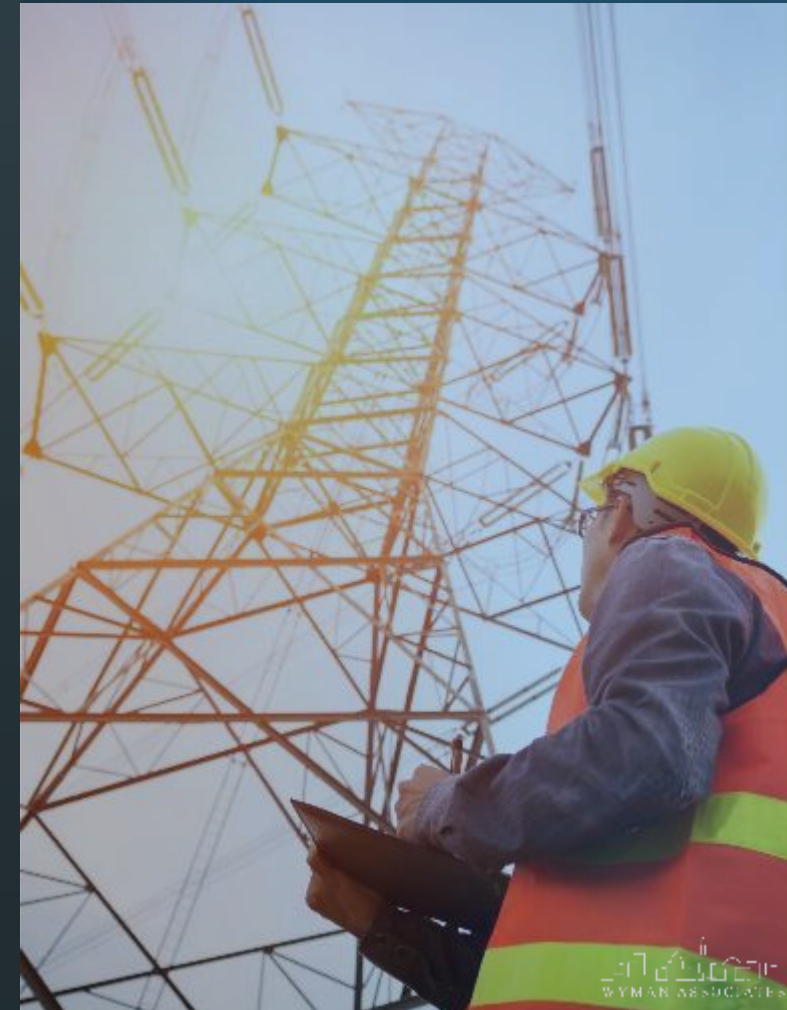
# Broadband Speeds



- **CAF – 10/1**
- **RDOF – 25/3**
- **RDOF Auction**
  - 180+ winning bidders
  - \$9.2 billion
  - Over 5.2 million unserved homes and businesses
  - 99.7% committing speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps
  - Over 85% committing to gigabit-speed BB

# Unproven Technologies

- **PCCA Position / Letter on Infrastructure Legislation**
- **January 19, 2021: Letter to FCC from 160 lawmakers encouraging FCC to “validate that each provider in fact has the technical, financial, managerial, operational skills, capabilities, and resources”**
- **Ensuring RDOF Integrity Coalition (ERIC)**
  - NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association
  - WTA-Advocates of Rural Broadband
  - Rural Wireless Association / Competitive Carrier Association
  - Rural Americans and local government officials





# “Yellow Flags”

- WISP's
- Chapter 11 Companies.
- Are we Future Proofing?
- Who are the consortium's
- MSO's
- Latency?
- Transparency.
- Accountability.



## “Red Flags”

- SpaceX

- “Beta Test”

- “Better Than Nothing Internet”

- 50meg-150meg, but sometimes no meg.

- 20-40 ms Latency

- Anything over 20ms is not so good!



## “Red Flags”

- Demonstrate two years of experience providing a voice, broadband, and/or electric distribution or transmission service





# “Red Flags”

- Merriam-Webster
- Beta test definition
- a field test of the beta version of a product especially by testers outside the company

developing it that is conducted prior to commercial release.

# Need for Clear Milestones



## ■ Current RDOF Milestones

- 40% of the required number of locations in a given state by end of the third year of support;
- 60% of the required number of locations in a given state by end of the fourth year of support;
- 80% of the required number of locations in a given state by end of the fifth year of support; and
- Need more “teeth” in current RDOF milestones

# Performance-Based Allocation of Federal Dollars

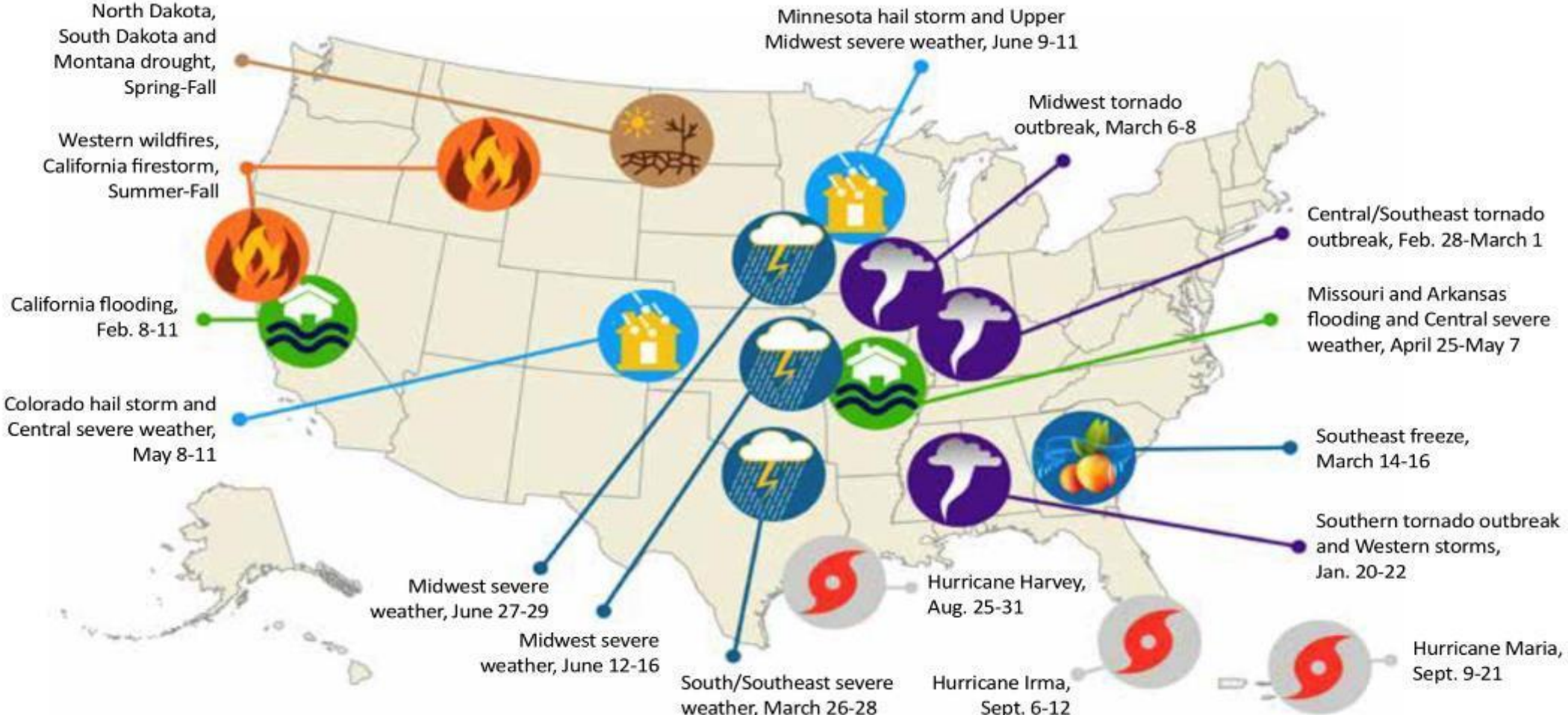


# Accessible, Affordable Internet for All Act



- \$80 Billion – BB buildout thru competitive bidding
- 75% for “unserved” (service below 25/25 Mbps) and “low-tier service” (between 25/25 - 100/100)
- Remaining 25% divided among states for bidding in unserved, low-tier, or “mid-tier” service (>100/100 but <1 gig)
- Establishes reqs offering at least 100/100 “with sufficiently low latency”
- Bidders “must meet objective, transparent criteria upfront that demonstrates tech & operational capacity...”
- Labor Provisions
- “Dig Once”

# 2017 U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters



This map denotes the approximate location for each of the 16 billion-dollar weather and climate disasters that impacted the United States in 2017. Source: NOAA

# Electric Grid System Hardening: Resilience & Reliability

## ■ Resilience: capacity to quickly recover

- Underground vulnerable lines
- Relocate cross-country lines to road side or near road
- Add reclosers to isolate faults and minimize outage areas
- Add circuit ties to minimize radial lines
- Increase vegetation trimming (width & frequency)
- Replace wood arms with fiberglass to reduce overload breakage

## ■ Reliability: performing consistently well

- Add fusing to reduce fault spread
- Install smart fuses (TripSaver) to speed recovery from nuisance outages
- Install wildlife guards and increase phase-to-ground spacing to minimize animal caused outages
- Reconductor aged, small wires to mitigate breakage
  - Use jacketed wire to mitigate incidental contact outages
- Use Smart Meters to self report outages
- Use Smart Meter data to audit and correct system mapping errors



# FCC/RUS Precision Ag Task Force

**Todd G. Myers**

Kenneth G. Myers  
Construction  
Company



# FCC BDAC – Job Skills Working Group

**Steve Sellenriek**

Sellenriek Construction





# Government Mandated PLAs



- Increased Costs
- Reduced Competition
- Discrimination
- Strikes
- Safety
- Local Jobs
- Wages and Pensions
- Labor Productivity
- Training and Apprenticeship
- Case Studies
- Voluntary vs. Government-Mandated PLAs
- Unions Oppose PLA Mandates



# PLA Coalition

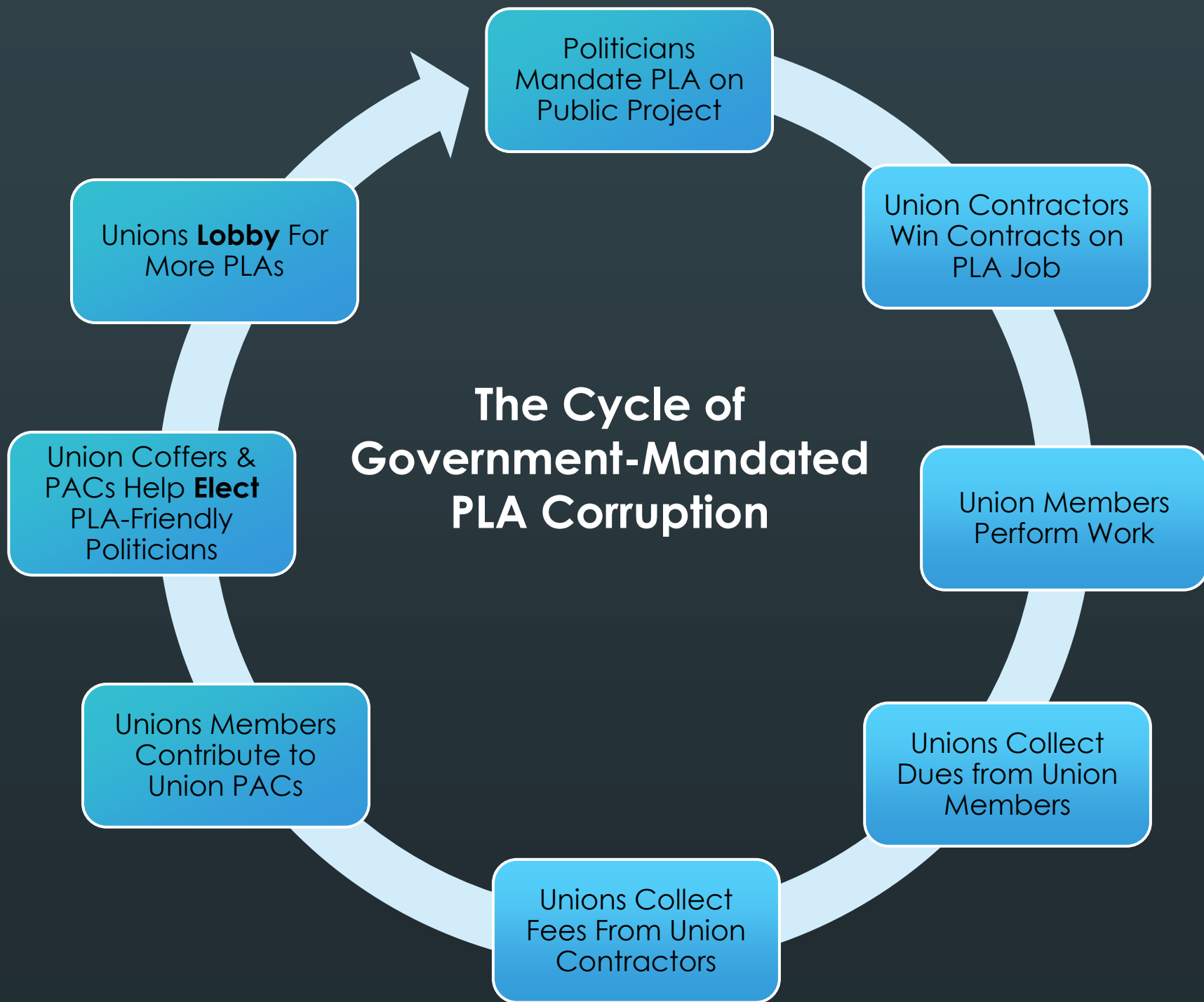
- ACEC
- American Fire Sprinkler Association
- APCA
- ARTBA
- ABC
- Business Coalition for Fair Competition
- Construction Industry RT
- Electronic Security Association
- Independent Electrical Contractors
- NAHB
- Nat'l Black Chamber of Commerce
- NFIB
- NRMCA
- NUCA
- PCCA
- Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
- US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

# Fair and Open Competition Act

**Bill would enhance competition & government neutrality towards labor relations by:**

- Prohibiting federal agencies from either requiring or prohibiting a contract bidder to enter into a PLA in order to be awarded a federal contract.
- Agencies that award grants, enter into contracts, or provide financial assistance for construction projects would have to ensure that bid specifications and project agreements do not contain any requirements or prohibitions regarding PLAs.





# PRO Act

## Protecting the Right to Organize PRO Act (HR 824) Presents threats on:

- workers' right to choose union representation through secret ballot elections;
- workers' right to remove a union that fails to adequately represent them;
- businesses and individuals' ability to contract with independent contractors;
- workers' right to choose not to contribute to a union they don't support;
- government's ability to prevent unions from expanding a labor dispute with one employer to other businesses and consumers;

# AEM/OSHA “Demo Day”

- **Multiple stations to showcase range of construction markets**
  - Utility line excavation
  - Directional Drilling
  - Trench Safety
  - Utility Line Locating
  - Broadband/electric power?
  - Gas Distribution?
- **Location 15 minutes outside of DC**
- **Targeting 10/22/21 or 10/29/21**

A photograph of a classical building with many columns, overlaid with a blue geometric shape. The columns are made of light-colored stone and have a fluted design. The blue shape is a large triangle pointing towards the right, with a smaller triangle nested inside it. The word "Questions?" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

Questions?