

## Broadband Summit

# The Partnership Between Public Safety & Rural Telecom Networks

Jesse Ward

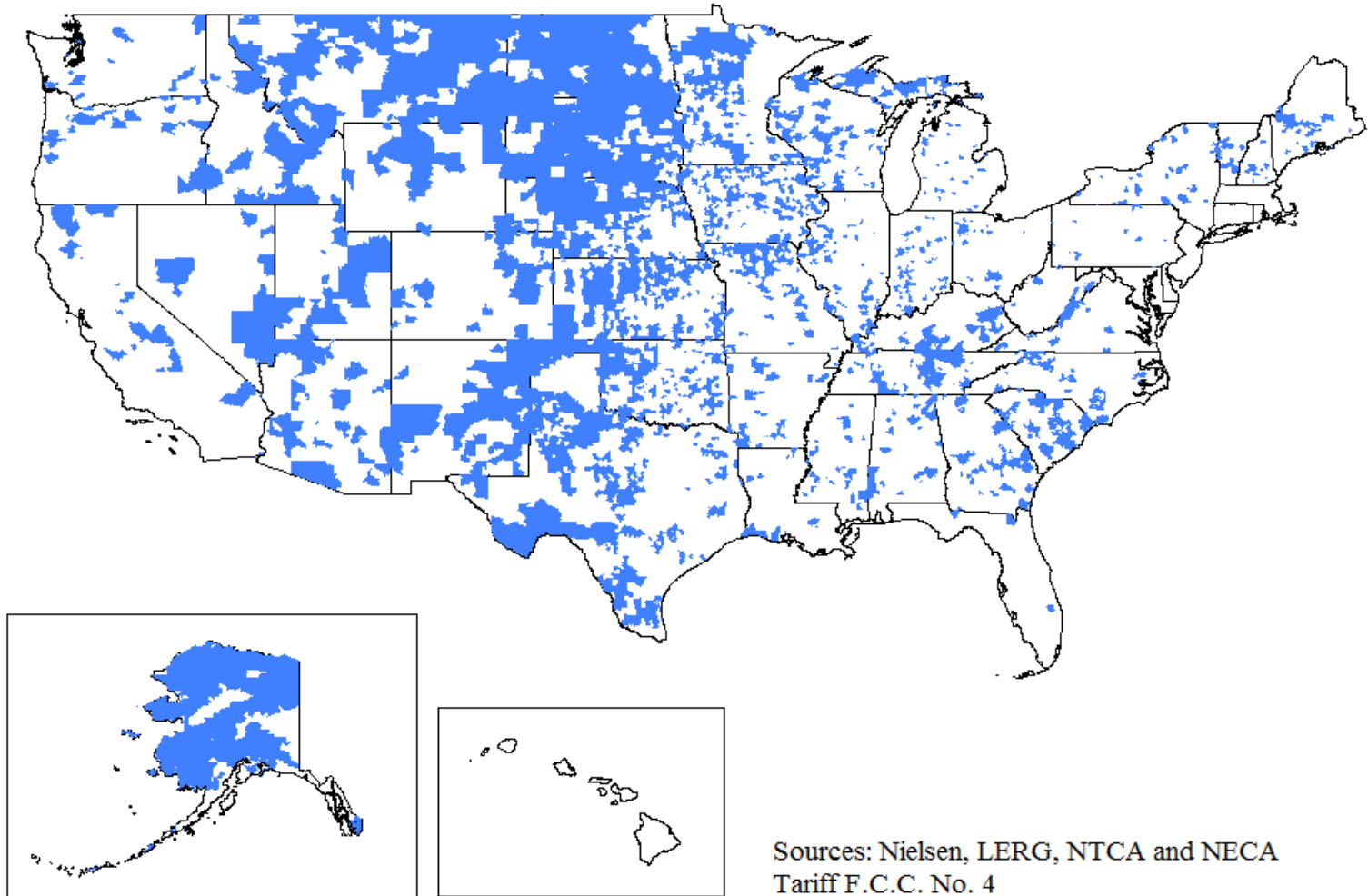
Industry & Policy Analysis Manager  
NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association

# Who is NTCA

- NTCA represents nearly 900 small, rural broadband providers in 45 states.
- NTCA's members deliver high-quality communications services in the most sparsely-populated, highest-cost rural areas.
- NTCA's members vary tremendously in size. The average member has approximately 5,344 subscribers, 31 employees, and annual revenue of \$1m-\$5m.
- NTCA members have a vested interest in their communities.

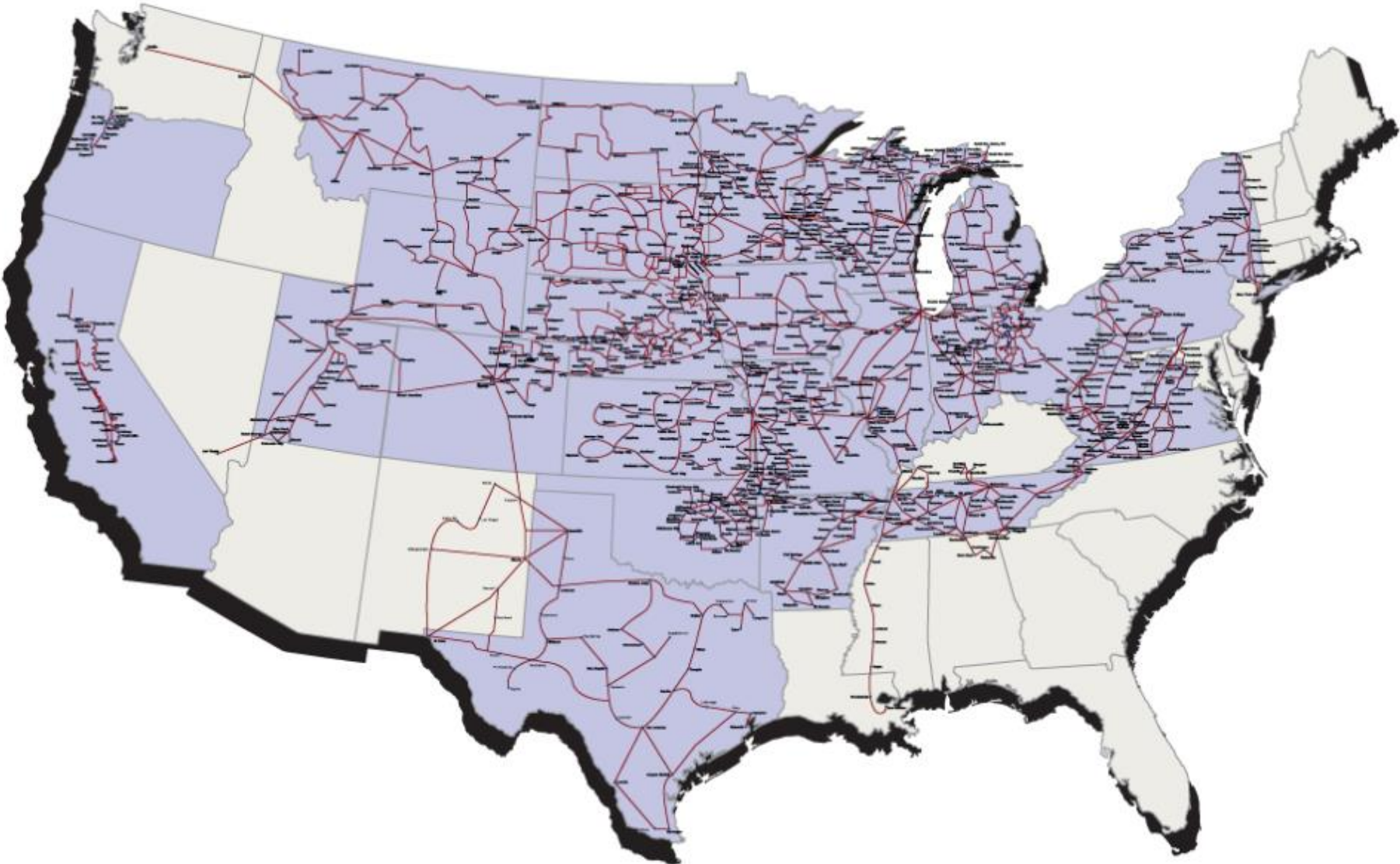
# NTCA Member Service Areas

NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association



Sources: Nielsen, LERG, NTCA and NECA  
Tariff F.C.C. No. 4

# Statewide Fiber Networks



# Big Bend Telephone (Alpine, Texas)

- Serves 20,000 households and anchor institutions, utilizing fiber, DSL service via copper, and fixed wireless technologies; more than 18,000 square miles of extreme terrain, including 485 border miles
- Fiber optic network enables innovative applications such as mobile video surveillance system (MVSS) and Boquillas Crossing Port of Entry.



# Farmers Telecommunications Cooperative (Rainsville, Alabama)

- Provides service to more than 16,000 subscribers in two counties; 1,000 miles of fiber in diverse, redundant rings with capacity up to 10 Gbps
- In 2011, in response to a series of tornados, FTC used alternative sources to power its switch and CO, and host an incident command center for city, county & state officials. FTC provisioned wired backhaul connection for Alabama EMA deployable system within 2 hours.
- FTC now serves as alternate site for DeKalb County EMA.



# Additional Examples

- Enhanced Telecommunications Corp. (ETC),  
Sunman, Indiana
- Fort Mojave Telecommunications  
Needles, California
- Midstate Communications Cooperative  
Kimball, South Dakota
- Panhandle Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc.  
(PTCI), Guymon, Oklahoma
- Southern Kansas Telephone Company (SKT),  
Clearwater, Kansas

# Partnership and Collaboration

- Rural network deployment beset by unique challenges.
- Existing network assets can assist with efficiently building out the FirstNet network.
- Satellite is a necessary, last-resort technology for filling in the gaps in terrestrial coverage.
- Traffic can be backhauled and aggregated on commercial fiber networks.
- Existing assets can be hardened to meet public-safety grade requirements for reliability and resiliency.
  - Alternative networks are an effective way to build in more service resiliency. Network diversity is more effective than just trying to harden one network.



# Contact Information

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