<u>SSB 5357</u> - S AMD 361 By Senator Wellman

## ADOPTED 03/05/2021

On page 2, beginning on line 5, after "office" strike all 1 material through "revitalization board," on line 6 2 On page 2, after line 9, insert the following: 3 4 "(5) The statewide broadband office must develop a project evaluation process to assist in coordination among state broadband 5 infrastructure funders to maximize opportunities to leverage federal 6 funding and ensure efficient state investment in achieving the policy 7 objectives of RCW 43.330.536. The project evaluation process must 8 9 help standardize the assessment of proposed broadband projects so that the state funders, soon after a project is identified, can 10 determine whether the project is a strong candidate for a known 11 federal funding opportunity. The statewide broadband office will use 12 13 the tool to identify whether a project can be packaged as part of a 14 regional or other coordinated federal grant proposal. The statewide 15 broadband office, public works board, and community economic revitalization board are encouraged to enter into a memorandum of 16

17 understanding outlining how coordination will take place so that the 18 process can help with a coordinated funding strategy across these 19 entities."

<u>EFFECT:</u> Requires the Statewide Broadband Office to develop a project evaluation process to assist in coordination among state broadband infrastructure funders to maximize federal funding. Encourages the Statewide Broadband Office, the Public Works Board, and the Community Economic Revitalization Board to enter into an MOU outlining how coordination will take place.

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