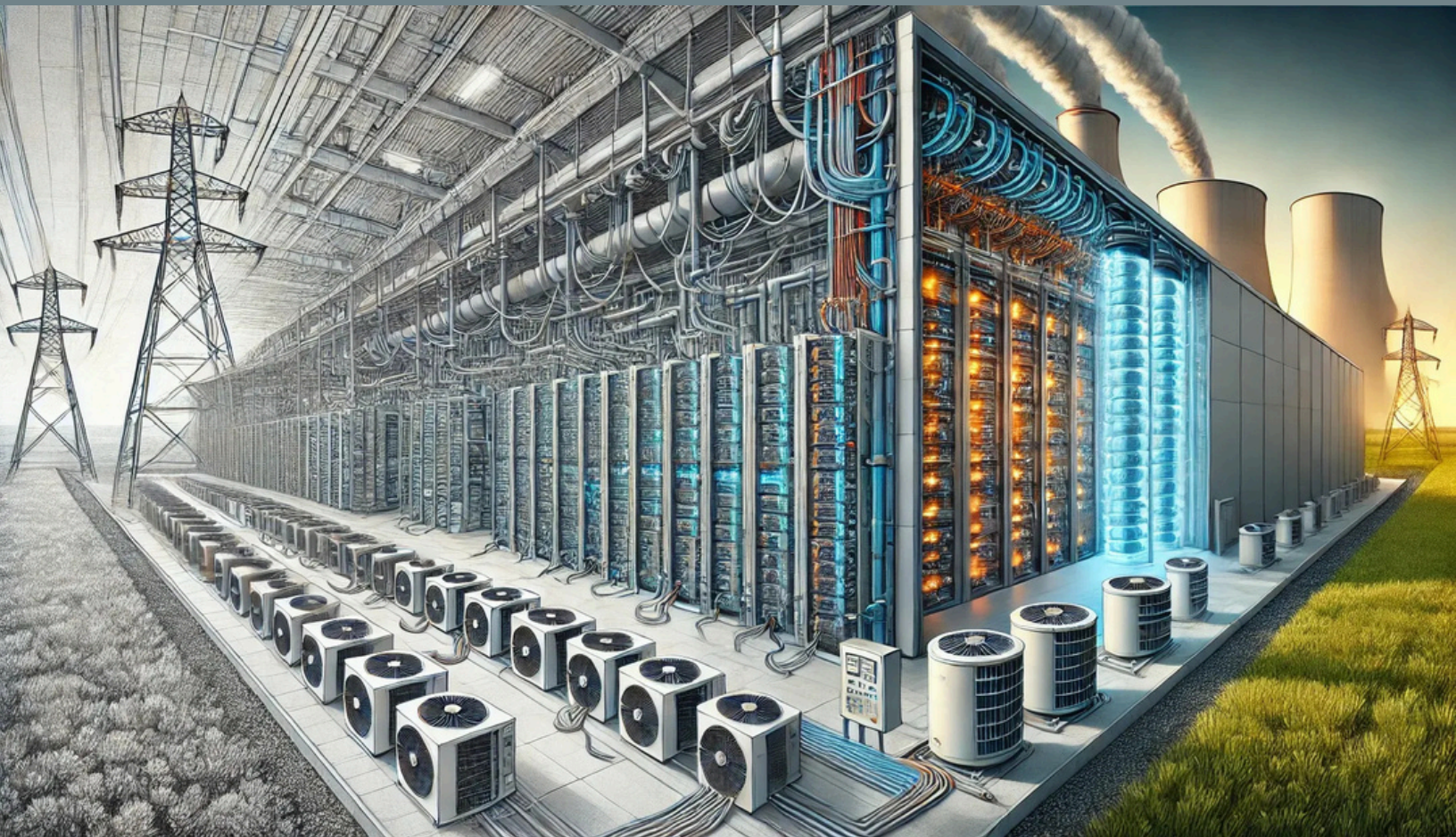# BROADBANDBREAKFAST

PRESENTS

DATA CENTERS, NUCLEAR POWER AND BROADBAND SUMMIT

MARCH 27, 2025
WASHINGTON, DC.

A one-day conference exploring AI and Broadband Infrastructure

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Keynote Address from Rep. Randy Weber   *(8:30-8:45am)*

- **Randy Weber**, Representative, Texas's 14th District

He serves on the House Energy and Commerce Committee as Vice Chair of the Energy Subcommittee, which oversees the broadest jurisdiction of any legislative committee. Additionally, Weber chairs the Energy Subcommittee on the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Welcoming Remarks   *(8:45-9:15am)*

- **Drew Clark**, CEO and Publisher, Broadband Breakfast

Special Address by Christopher Guith   *(9:15-9:30am)*

- **Christopher Guith**, senior vice president, U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Energy Institute

Panel 1: Data Centers, AI and Nuclear Energy   *(9:30-10:30am)*

The AI revolution is reshaping America's energy landscape. As tech giants pour hundreds of billions into expanding data center infrastructure, questions about energy and water consumption, sustainability, and grid capacity take center stage. How will the nation balance its AI ambitions with energy constraints? What mix of traditional, renewable and nuclear energy will power AI?

- **Fatima Maria Ahmad,** Senior Vice President for Clean Energy, Boundary Stone
- **Brian Smith**, Director of Nuclear Reactor Development, Idaho National Laboratory
- **Ewelina Czapla**, Manager, Cloud Government Affairs and Public Policy, Google
- **Stephen Snyder**, Partner, Womble Bond Dickinson
- **Chip Pickering**, CEO, INCOMPAS
- **Daniel Moore** (moderator), energy and climate policy reporter, Axios

Intermission   *(10:30-10:45am)*

Panel 2: Cutting Red Tape for Broadband and Energy Projects   *(10:45-11:45am)*

The Trump Administration has brought a new urgency to streamlining infrastructure deployment. The White House is pushing to accelerate data center and energy projects through executive action, prompting states and federal agencies to rethink their approval processes. How quickly can broadband and energy projects be built?

- **Andy Berke**, Former Administrator, USDA's Rural Utilities Service, and Former Mayor, Chattanooga, Tennessee
- **Laban Coblentz**, Head of Communication, ITER
- **Julianne Szyper**, Deputy Director, Virginia Department of Energy
- **Carol Lane,** Vice President, Government Affairs, X-energy
- **Drew Clark** (moderator), CEO and Publisher, Broadband Breakfast

Lunch   *(11:45am-1:00pm)*

Keynote Address from Rep. Chuck Fleischmann   *(12pm)*

- **Chuck Fleischmann**, Representative, Tennessee's Third District

Congressman Chuck Fleischmann is a conservative Republican representing Tennessee's 3rd District and serves on the House Appropriations Committee. He is Chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee, where he oversees funding for national laboratories, nuclear security, and key infrastructure projects like the Chickamauga Lock.

Panel 3: Using IXPs to Improve Rural Connectivity   *(1-2pm)*

Internet Exchange Points represent a critical but often overlooked piece of America's digital infrastructure. With billions being invested in broadband expansion, strategically placed IXPs could significantly improve rural connectivity while reducing costs. How can smart infrastructure planning ensure that rural communities aren't left behind in the digital revolution?

- **Hunter Newby**, Owner, Newby Ventures
- **David Jeppsen**, Chief of Global Public Affairs, NTT Corporation
- **Ron da Silva**, CEO and Founder, Network Technologies Global
- **Art Kazmierczak**, Director Strategic Sales & Network Development, Arelion
- **Brent Legg** (moderator), Executive Vice President, Connected Nation

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

REP. RANDY WEBER
CONGRESSMAN,
TRXAS'S 14TH DISTRICT

Congressman Randy Weber is a public servant, proven conservative, former small business owner, and third-generation Texan representing the 14th District of Texas. He serves on the House Energy and Commerce Committee as Vice Chair of the Energy Subcommittee, which oversees the broadest jurisdiction of any legislative committee. Additionally, Weber chairs the Energy Subcommittee on the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee. Prior to being elected to Congress, Weber served four years in the Texas State House. During his tenure, Weber served on the committees of Environmental Regulation, Public Education, and as Vice Chair of Border and Intergovernmental Affairs. He holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Houston at Clear Lake. He previously served on the House Foreign Affairs and Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

REP. CHUCK FLEISCHMANN
CONGRESSMAN,
TENNESSEE'S THIRD DISTRICT

Congressman Chuck Fleischmann is a conservative Republican representing Tennessee's 3rd District and serves on the House Appropriations Committee. He is Chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee, where he oversees funding for national laboratories, nuclear security, and key infrastructure projects like the Chickamauga Lock. He also sits on the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, contributing to energy policy discussions. Before his political career, he and his wife ran a small business in Chattanooga for 24 years. He holds a law degree from the University of Tennessee and has been active in community organizations such as the National Craniofacial Association and the Cherokee Area Council of Boy Scouts of America.

SPECIAL ADDRESS

CHRISTOPHER GUITH
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,
US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S GLOBAL ENERGY INSTITUTE

Christopher Guith is senior vice president of the Chamber's Global Energy Institute, and leads the Institute's efforts to build support for meaningful energy and environmental action nationally and internationally through policy development, education, and advocacy. He provides expertise on a range of energy issues, educating policymakers, businesses, and the public on the benefits of a diversified energy portfolio. Guith frequently speaks to stakeholder groups and consults with state and local chambers on the economic impact of energy policies.

PANEL 1: DATA CENTERS, AI AND ENERGY

FATIMA AHMAD
*SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,
CLEAN ENERGY,
BOUNDARY STONE PARTNERS*

Fatima Maria Ahmad is a Senior Vice President for Clean Energy in Boundary Stone's Washington, D.C. office. Prior to joining BSP, she served as Senior Counsel with the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis in the 116th and 117th Congresses. Previously, she was a Senior Solutions Fellow at the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions.

CHIP PICKERING
*CEO,
INCOMPAS*

Chip Pickering has been CEO of INCOMPAS since January 2014. During that time, INCOMPAS has achieved significant growth with leading internet, backbone, business broadband, wireless, and international companies. Under his leadership, INCOMPAS has led numerous public policy campaigns promoting competition through an open internet and in the business broadband market.

BRIAN SMITH
*DIRECTOR OF NUCLEAR REACTOR
DEVELOPMENT,
IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY*

Brian Smith became Idaho National Laboratory's Nuclear Reactor Development Director in January 2025. He leads the laboratory's strategy for accelerating the deployment of advanced nuclear technologies to ensure the nation's energy security and promote space, defense, and critical infrastructure applications. He joined INL after a 20-year career in government in which he served in key positions in the Executive and Legislative branches, with experience in defense and commercial nuclear technology and policy.

EWELINA CZAPLA
*MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
AND PUBLIC POLICY,
GOOGLE CLOUD*

Ewelina Czapla is a Government Affairs and Public Policy Manager at Google focused on Google Cloud Technical Infrastructure. Formerly, Ms. Czapla was the Director of Energy Policy at The Digital Chamber and its affiliate, the Digital Power Network. She also worked on energy and climate policy at Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions and the American Action Forum. In addition, Ms. Czapla worked for more than 5 years at Arbo, where she advised developers as well as the federal government on regulatory issues that arise throughout the planning, siting, construction and operation of mid-stream energy infrastructure projects.

STEPHEN SNYDER
*PARNTER,
WOMBLE BOND DICKINSON*

Stephen Snyder is Partner at Womble Bond Dickinson. He represents energy clients in a broad range of transactions and regulatory, compliance, and litigation matters before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and state regulatory commissions.

DANIEL MOORE
*ENERGY POLICY REPORTER,
AXIOS*

Daniel Moore is a Washington-based journalist covering energy/climate policy for Axios, a newsletter-driven media company. Based in the Capitol, he covers how Congress and policy-makers at the Energy Department and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission think about rising demand for electricity, the role of natural gas and nuclear energy, and securing supplies of critical minerals. Previously, he covered energy policy for Bloomberg and national politics and business for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

PANEL 2: CUTTING RED TAPE FOR BROADBAND AND ENERGY PROJECTS

LABAN COBLENTZ
HEAD OF COMMUNICATION, ITER

Laban Coblentz's career crisscrosses multiple sectors of science, technology, and entrepreneurship: as an NRC safety inspector, a staffer for Senator Joe Lieberman on e-Government, an IAEA official pushing WMD diplomacy in Iraq and Iran, a university administrator at RPI, the founder of a New York innovation center and a Texas cybersecurity start-up, and now at the ITER international fusion project in France.

CAROL LANE
VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, X-ENERGY

Carol Lane is Vice President of Government Relations at X-energy, a company specializing in advanced nuclear reactor design and fuel manufacturing. In this role, she leads the company's strategic engagement with Congress and the executive branch, with a particular focus on the Department of Energy, NASA, and the Department of Defense, advancing X-energy's cutting-edge technologies and business initiatives.

DREW CLARK
CEO AND PUBLISHER, BROADBAND BREAKFAST

Breakfast Media LLC CEO **Drew Clark** has led the Broadband Breakfast community since 2008. An early proponent of better broadband, better lives, he initially founded the Broadband Census crowdsourcing tool to collect and verify broadband data left unpublished by the Federal Communications Commission. As CEO and Publisher, Clark presides over the leading media community advocating for higher-capacity internet everywhere through topical, timely and intelligent coverage. Clark also served as head of the Partnership for a Connected Illinois, a state broadband initiative.

ANDY BERKE
FORMER ADMINISTRATOR, USDA'S RURAL UTILITIES SERVICES FORMER MAYOR, CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

For the last two decades, **Andy Berke** has led progress at the federal, state, and local levels. In 2022, he became the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service, the largest funder of telecommunications, water, and electricity in rural America. His work led to the funding of more than $4.5 billion for new high-speed internet projects, and he utilized funding from the Inflation Reduction Act to create two new programs: Empowering Rural America (New ERA) and Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE). Together, these initiatives seeded $40 billion in clean energy projects across solar, wind, nuclear, hydro, geothermal, and carbon capture technologies. Berke also served two terms as Mayor of Chattanooga, Tennessee, the first city to build universal broadband.

JULIANNE SZYPER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Julianne Szyper is Deputy Director of the Virginia Department of Energy. She was previously Chief of Staff to the Lieutenant Governor of Virginia from 2022-2024. As Deputy Director, Julianne has overseen the establishment of the Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank, with a seed fund of $10 million for energy and supply chain projects in the Commonwealth. She is leading efforts for public and private capital infusion for energy infrastructure and generation projects. Additionally, Julianne is overseeing the Virginia Power Innovation Program grant fund, with $3 million allocated for energy innovation projects in the Commonwealth.

PANEL 3: USING IXPS TO IMPROVE RURAL CONNECTIVITY

HUNTER NEWBY
OWNER,
NEWBY VENTURES

Hunter Newby is an American entrepreneur, investor, conservationist and the owner of Newby Ventures. His primary field of interest has been network infrastructure. As Co-Founder, Chief Strategy Officer and a Director of Telx, he pioneered the carrier-neutral Meet-Me-Room and the development of carrier hotels and data centers in the United States leading to massive value creation and economic development throughout the Country.

ART KAZMIERCZAK
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC SALES
& NETWORK DEVELOPMENT,
ARELION

Art Kazmierczak is Director of Strategic Sales and Network Development for Arelion. He has been driving strategic development and investment in Arelion's global Tier 1 fiber network for 25 years, connecting capacity at scale and a thriving internet ecosystem of cloud & AI applications and content, into developing edge markets. Working closely with hyperscale and AI companies we provide customized solutions connecting the new scale campuses globally to power new applications distributed at the edge, and enabling end users and businesses to achieve economic growth.

BRENT LEGG
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT,
CONNECTED NATION

Brent Legg serves as Executive Vice President at nonprofit Connected Nation, where he leads the organization's joint venture to establish neutral Internet Exchange Point (IXP) facilities in unserved markets across the United States. Mr. Legg has more than 23 years of experience working at the intersection of technology, politics, and public policy, with a focus on mapping, planning, K-12 school connectivity, and infrastructure development. He has provided testimony before the U.S. Congress and the legislatures of 14 states, and has authored dozens of regulatory filings and reports, including the State of Alaska's broadband plan.

DAVID JEPPSEN
CHIEF OF GLOBAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS,
NTT CORPORATION

David Jeppsen is Chief of Global Public affairs at NTT Corporation, the holding company of NTT DOCOMO, NTT DATA and other NTT subsidiaries. In this role, David helps manage NTT's government relations strategies worldwide, shaping policies that impact the future of technology and innovation. Prior to his role at NTT, David was VP & Representative Director for NTT DOCOMO in Washington DC. Earlier in his career, he was VP of Public Affairs, Asia Pacific and China at Lucent Technologies based in Tokyo, Japan and Washington DC. David is a graduate with honors from George Washington School of Law. He lives in Washington DC with his wife and three daughters.

RON DA SILVA
CEO AND FOUNDER,
NETWORK TECHNOLOGIES GLOBAL

Ron da Silva is an NACD certified Board Director with extensive corporate and internet governance experience. He serves on the Boards of Chartway and CertifiedTrue, is a Communications Commissioner for Loudoun County, Virginia, maintains a consulting practice, Network Technologies Global and is an advisor with Saras Partners. Previously, Ron was Board member of ICANN, Board Member of the Data Center Coalition, Vice President of Operations for Quantum Loophole, Executive Director with Denuo, CIO and Co- Founder of CertifiedTrue, and various leadership and engineering roles with Charter, Time Warner Cable, American Online and Sprint. He holds a Bachelor of Science in applied mathematics and English from Old Dominion University.

GOLD SPONSOR

INC⟫MPAS

INCOMPAS, the internet and competitive networks association, is the leading trade association advocating for competition policy, innovation, and economic development. INCOMPAS represents internet, competitive communications, infrastructure, energy, and technology companies both large and small. Our members are catalysts for creating economic growth and improving the quality of life of all Americans through technological innovation, new services, and greater choice for consumers and businesses.

SILVER SPONSOR

CONNECTED NATION

Connected Nation, a national nonprofit founded in 2001, exists to connect and empower people through technology. Offering solutions that foster innovation and improve lives, Connected Nation works in close collaboration with state and federal agencies, tribal nations, foundations, network operators, and community anchor institutions to plan and implement projects and programs that drive economic opportunity and improve lives. We offer policy and planning support, grant program administration, and geospatial and network validation services to ensure that taxpayer dollars are invested wisely. We work at the grassroots level to conduct research and provide workforce development and digital skills training programs that empower individuals to succeed. We're also building carrier-neutral Internet Exchange Point (IXP) facilities to improve internet performance and resilience while lowering costs—ensuring that smaller cities and rural areas aren't left behind in the coming A.I. revolution. We believe that everyone belongs in a Connected Nation.