

ROY COOPER GOVERNOR

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Thom Tillis 113 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Tillis:

Having a high-speed internet connection – and the ability to use it – is critical to modern life. That's why the N.C. General Assembly and I have directed more than \$1 billion of North Carolina's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA SLFRF) to expand access to high-speed internet infrastructure and help North Carolinians get the digital skills, devices, and digital navigation programs intended to address the high cost of an internet subscription.

One major challenge persists: we can run fiber broadband to every home in North Carolina, but if the residents can't afford the service, they still risk being left behind. Fortunately, Congress created a tremendously impactful tool to combat the high costs of internet service as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), administered by the Federal Communications Commission, provides qualified low-income households \$30 per month off the cost of an internet subscription or \$100 off the cost of a device.

There is broad agreement across the political spectrum that affordable high-speed internet is a necessity in today's world, whether it's for education, work or health care. This is why I urge you to reauthorize this critical program that makes internet access more affordable. It is essential that people do not lose access to the internet that this vital program has allowed them to gain.

The ACP is already helping more than 841,000 North Carolinians. We have worked to raise awareness of the program and currently have about 46 percent of eligible N.C. households enrolled. Only three states have a higher rate of eligible people participating.

The ACP is a critical complement to our collective efforts to expand access to broadband infrastructure in rural, unserved communities. With \$42.5 billion in Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) funding going to the states, we want to maximize this once-in-a-generation opportunity. The ACP plays a valuable role in helping households afford broadband and encouraging internet providers to build out rural broadband infrastructure. Recent analysis indicates that the ACP reduces the subsidy needed to incentivize providers to build in rural regions by 25% per household, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used to their maximum potential.

Closing our nation's digital divide transcends politics. Whether you live in a rural area, a suburb, or a city, every American needs access to high-speed internet. Preserving the ACP will allow us to build upon the progress we've made in expanding connectivity rather than falling behind in a mission we cannot afford to lose.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions about the ACP or our efforts to close the digital divide in your district, please do not hesitate to contact Jim McCleskey, Director of my Washington, D.C. Office at jim.mccleskey@nc.gov or Nate Denny, Deputy Secretary for Broadband and Digital Equity with the N.C. Department of Information Technology at nate.denny@nc.gov.

With kind regards I am

Very truly yours,

Roy Cooper



ROY COOPER GOVERNOR

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Ted Budd 304 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Budd:

Having a high-speed internet connection – and the ability to use it – is critical to modern life. That's why the N.C. General Assembly and I have directed more than \$1 billion of North Carolina's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA SLFRF) to expand access to high-speed internet infrastructure and help North Carolinians get the digital skills, devices, and digital navigation programs intended to address the high cost of an internet subscription.

One major challenge persists: we can run fiber broadband to every home in North Carolina, but if the residents can't afford the service, they still risk being left behind. Fortunately, Congress created a tremendously impactful tool to combat the high costs of internet service as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), administered by the Federal Communications Commission, provides qualified low-income households \$30 per month off the cost of an internet subscription or \$100 off the cost of a device.

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With kind regards I am

Very truly yours,

Roy Cooper



ROY COOPER GOVERNOR

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Don Davis 1123 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Davis:

Having a high-speed internet connection – and the ability to use it – is critical to modern life. That's why the N.C. General Assembly and I have directed more than \$1 billion of North Carolina's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA SLFRF) to expand access to high-speed internet infrastructure and help North Carolinians get the digital skills, devices, and digital navigation programs intended to address the high cost of an internet subscription.

One major challenge persists: we can run fiber broadband to every home in North Carolina, but if the residents can't afford the service, they still risk being left behind. Fortunately, Congress created a tremendously impactful tool to combat the high costs of internet service as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), administered by the Federal Communications Commission, provides qualified low-income households \$30 per month off the cost of an internet subscription or \$100 off the cost of a device.

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The ACP is already helping more than 841,000 North Carolinians. We have worked to raise awareness of the program and currently have about 46 percent of eligible N.C. households enrolled. Only three states have a higher rate of eligible people participating. As of June 2023, approximately 72,134 households have enrolled in the ACP in your district, which represents 24 percent of all households in your district.

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Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions about the ACP or our efforts to close the digital divide in your district, please do not hesitate to contact Jim McCleskey, Director of my Washington, D.C. Office at jim.mccleskey@nc.gov or Nate Denny, Deputy Secretary for Broadband and Digital Equity with the N.C. Department of Information Technology at nate.denny@nc.gov.

With kind regards I am

Very truly yours,

Roy Cooper



ROY COOPER GOVERNOR

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Deborah Ross 1221 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ross:

Having a high-speed internet connection – and the ability to use it – is critical to modern life. That's why the N.C. General Assembly and I have directed more than \$1 billion of North Carolina's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA SLFRF) to expand access to high-speed internet infrastructure and help North Carolinians get the digital skills, devices, and digital navigation programs intended to address the high cost of an internet subscription.

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The ACP is already helping more than 841,000 North Carolinians. We have worked to raise awareness of the program and currently have about 46 percent of eligible N.C. households enrolled. Only three states have a higher rate of eligible people participating. As of June 30, 2023, approximately 28,719 households have enrolled in the ACP in your district, which represents 10 percent of all households in your district.

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With kind regards I am

Very truly yours,

Roy Cooper



ROY COOPER GOVERNOR

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Gregory (Greg) Murphy 407 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Murphy:

Having a high-speed internet connection – and the ability to use it – is critical to modern life. That's why the N.C. General Assembly and I have directed more than \$1 billion of North Carolina's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA SLFRF) to expand access to high-speed internet infrastructure and help North Carolinians get the digital skills, devices, and digital navigation programs intended to address the high cost of an internet subscription.

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The ACP is already helping more than 841,000 North Carolinians. We have worked to raise awareness of the program and currently have about 46 percent of eligible N.C. households enrolled. Only three states have a higher rate of eligible people participating. As of June 30, 2023, approximately 54,656 households have enrolled in the ACP in your district, which represents 19 percent of all households in your district.

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With kind regards I am

Very truly yours,

Roy Cooper



ROY COOPER GOVERNOR

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Valerie Foushee 1716 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Foushee:

Having a high-speed internet connection – and the ability to use it – is critical to modern life. That's why the N.C. General Assembly and I have directed more than \$1 billion of North Carolina's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA SLFRF) to expand access to high-speed internet infrastructure and help North Carolinians get the digital skills, devices, and digital navigation programs intended to address the high cost of an internet subscription.

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The ACP is already helping more than 841,000 North Carolinians. We have worked to raise awareness of the program and currently have about 46 percent of eligible N.C. households enrolled. Only three states have a higher rate of eligible people participating. As of June 30, 2023, approximately 52,447 households have enrolled in the ACP in your district, which represents 18 percent of all households in your district.

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Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions about the ACP or our efforts to close the digital divide in your district, please do not hesitate to contact Jim McCleskey, Director of my Washington, D.C. Office at jim.mccleskey@nc.gov or Nate Denny, Deputy Secretary for Broadband and Digital Equity with the N.C. Department of Information Technology at nate.denny@nc.gov.

With kind regards I am

Very truly yours,

Roy Cooper



ROY COOPER GOVERNOR

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Virginia Foxx 2462 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Foxx:

Having a high-speed internet connection – and the ability to use it – is critical to modern life. That's why the N.C. General Assembly and I have directed more than \$1 billion of North Carolina's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA SLFRF) to expand access to high-speed internet infrastructure and help North Carolinians get the digital skills, devices, and digital navigation programs intended to address the high cost of an internet subscription.

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The ACP is already helping more than 841,000 North Carolinians. We have worked to raise awareness of the program and currently have about 46 percent of eligible N.C. households enrolled. Only three states have a higher rate of eligible people participating. As of June 30, 2023, approximately 60,680 households have enrolled in the ACP in your district, which represents 20 percent of all households in your district.

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Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions about the ACP or our efforts to close the digital divide in your district, please do not hesitate to contact Jim McCleskey, Director of my Washington, D.C. Office at jim.mccleskey@nc.gov or Nate Denny, Deputy Secretary for Broadband and Digital Equity with the N.C. Department of Information Technology at nate.denny@nc.gov.

With kind regards I am

Very truly yours,

Roy Cooper



ROY COOPER GOVERNOR

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Manning 307 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Manning:

Having a high-speed internet connection – and the ability to use it – is critical to modern life. That's why the N.C. General Assembly and I have directed more than \$1 billion of North Carolina's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA SLFRF) to expand access to high-speed internet infrastructure and help North Carolinians get the digital skills, devices, and digital navigation programs intended to address the high cost of an internet subscription.

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With kind regards I am

Very truly yours,

Roy Cooper



ROY COOPER GOVERNOR

September 25, 2023

The Honorable David Rouzer 2333 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rouzer:

Having a high-speed internet connection – and the ability to use it – is critical to modern life. That's why the N.C. General Assembly and I have directed more than \$1 billion of North Carolina's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA SLFRF) to expand access to high-speed internet infrastructure and help North Carolinians get the digital skills, devices, and digital navigation programs intended to address the high cost of an internet subscription.

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Very truly yours,

Roy Cooper



ROY COOPER GOVERNOR

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Richard Hudson 2112 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hudson:

Having a high-speed internet connection – and the ability to use it – is critical to modern life. That's why the N.C. General Assembly and I have directed more than \$1 billion of North Carolina's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA SLFRF) to expand access to high-speed internet infrastructure and help North Carolinians get the digital skills, devices, and digital navigation programs intended to address the high cost of an internet subscription.

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Very truly yours,

Roy Cooper



ROY COOPER GOVERNOR

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Patrick McHenry 2134 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McHenry:

Having a high-speed internet connection – and the ability to use it – is critical to modern life. That's why the N.C. General Assembly and I have directed more than \$1 billion of North Carolina's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA SLFRF) to expand access to high-speed internet infrastructure and help North Carolinians get the digital skills, devices, and digital navigation programs intended to address the high cost of an internet subscription.

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Roy Cooper



ROY COOPER GOVERNOR

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Chuck Edwards 1505 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Edwards:

Having a high-speed internet connection – and the ability to use it – is critical to modern life. That's why the N.C. General Assembly and I have directed more than \$1 billion of North Carolina's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA SLFRF) to expand access to high-speed internet infrastructure and help North Carolinians get the digital skills, devices, and digital navigation programs intended to address the high cost of an internet subscription.

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There is broad agreement across the political spectrum that affordable high-speed internet is a necessity in today's world, whether it's for education, work or health care. This is why I urge you to reauthorize this critical program that makes internet access more affordable. It is essential that people do not lose access to the internet that this vital program has allowed them to gain.

The ACP is already helping more than 841,000 North Carolinians. We have worked to raise awareness of the program and currently have about 46 percent of eligible N.C. households enrolled. Only three states have a higher rate of eligible people participating. As of June 30, 2023, approximately 39,013 households have enrolled in the ACP in your district, which represents 13 percent of all households in your district.

The ACP is a critical complement to our collective efforts to expand access to broadband infrastructure in rural, unserved communities. With \$42.5\$ billion in Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) funding going to the states, we want to maximize this once-in-a-generation opportunity. The ACP plays a valuable role in helping households afford broadband and encouraging internet providers to build out rural broadband infrastructure. Recent analysis indicates that the ACP reduces the subsidy needed to incentivize providers to build in rural regions by 25% per household, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used to their maximum potential.

Closing our nation's digital divide transcends politics. Whether you live in a rural area, a suburb, or a city, every American needs access to high-speed internet. Preserving the ACP will allow us to build upon the progress we've made in expanding connectivity rather than falling behind in a mission we cannot afford to lose.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions about the ACP or our efforts to close the digital divide in your district, please do not hesitate to contact Jim McCleskey, Director of my Washington, D.C. Office at jim.mccleskey@nc.gov or Nate Denny, Deputy Secretary for Broadband and Digital Equity with the N.C. Department of Information Technology at nate.denny@nc.gov.

With kind regards I am

Very truly yours,

Roy Cooper



ROY COOPER GOVERNOR

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Alma Adams 2436 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Adams:

Having a high-speed internet connection – and the ability to use it – is critical to modern life. That's why the N.C. General Assembly and I have directed more than \$1 billion of North Carolina's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA SLFRF) to expand access to high-speed internet infrastructure and help North Carolinians get the digital skills, devices, and digital navigation programs intended to address the high cost of an internet subscription.

One major challenge persists: we can run fiber broadband to every home in North Carolina, but if the residents can't afford the service, they still risk being left behind. Fortunately, Congress created a tremendously impactful tool to combat the high costs of internet service as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), administered by the Federal Communications Commission, provides qualified low-income households \$30 per month off the cost of an internet subscription or \$100 off the cost of a device.

There is broad agreement across the political spectrum that affordable high-speed internet is a necessity in today's world, whether it's for education, work or health care. This is why I urge you to reauthorize this critical program that makes internet access more affordable. It is essential that people do not lose access to the internet that this vital program has allowed them to gain.

The ACP is already helping more than 841,000 North Carolinians. We have worked to raise awareness of the program and currently have about 46 percent of eligible N.C. households enrolled. Only three states have a higher rate of eligible people participating. As of June 30, 2023, approximately 54,090 households have enrolled in the ACP in your district, which represents 20 percent of all households in your district.

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Closing our nation's digital divide transcends politics. Whether you live in a rural area, a suburb, or a city, every American needs access to high-speed internet. Preserving the ACP will allow us to build upon the progress we've made in expanding connectivity rather than falling behind in a mission we cannot afford to lose.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions about the ACP or our efforts to close the digital divide in your district, please do not hesitate to contact Jim McCleskey, Director of my Washington, D.C. Office at jim.mccleskey@nc.gov or Nate Denny, Deputy Secretary for Broadband and Digital Equity with the N.C. Department of Information Technology at nate.denny@nc.gov.

With kind regards I am

Very truly yours,

Roy Cooper



ROY COOPER GOVERNOR

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Wiley Nickel 1133 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Nickel:

Having a high-speed internet connection – and the ability to use it – is critical to modern life. That's why the N.C. General Assembly and I have directed more than \$1 billion of North Carolina's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA SLFRF) to expand access to high-speed internet infrastructure and help North Carolinians get the digital skills, devices, and digital navigation programs intended to address the high cost of an internet subscription.

One major challenge persists: we can run fiber broadband to every home in North Carolina, but if the residents can't afford the service, they still risk being left behind. Fortunately, Congress created a tremendously impactful tool to combat the high costs of internet service as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), administered by the Federal Communications Commission, provides qualified low-income households \$30 per month off the cost of an internet subscription or \$100 off the cost of a device.

There is broad agreement across the political spectrum that affordable high-speed internet is a necessity in today's world, whether it's for education, work or health care. This is why I urge you to reauthorize this critical program that makes internet access more affordable. It is essential that people do not lose access to the internet that this vital program has allowed them to gain.

The ACP is already helping more than 841,000 North Carolinians. We have worked to raise awareness of the program and currently have about 46 percent of eligible N.C. households enrolled. Only three states have a higher rate of eligible people participating.

As of June 30, 2023, approximately 50,005 households have enrolled in the ACP in your district, which represents 19 percent of all households in your district.

The ACP could run out of funding as early as <u>April 2024</u>. Without bipartisan collaboration between Congress and the White House to continue the ACP, nearly 20 million households enrolled nationally could lose connectivity as well as all the essential services that come with it.

The ACP is a critical complement to our collective efforts to expand access to broadband infrastructure in rural, unserved communities. With \$42.5 billion in Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) funding going to the states, we want to maximize this once-in-a-generation opportunity. The ACP plays a valuable role in helping households afford broadband and encouraging internet providers to build out rural broadband infrastructure. Recent analysis indicates that the ACP reduces the subsidy needed to incentivize providers to build in rural regions by 25% per household, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used to their maximum potential.

Closing our nation's digital divide transcends politics. Whether you live in a rural area, a suburb, or a city, every American needs access to high-speed internet. Preserving the ACP will allow us to build upon the progress we've made in expanding connectivity rather than falling behind in a mission we cannot afford to lose.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions about the ACP or our efforts to close the digital divide in your district, please do not hesitate to contact Jim McCleskey, Director of my Washington, D.C. Office at jim.mccleskey@nc.gov or Nate Denny, Deputy Secretary for Broadband and Digital Equity with the N.C. Department of Information Technology at nate.denny@nc.gov.

With kind regards I am

Very truly yours,

Roy Cooper



ROY COOPER GOVERNOR

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Jeff Jackson 1318 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Jackson:

Having a high-speed internet connection – and the ability to use it – is critical to modern life. That's why the N.C. General Assembly and I have directed more than \$1 billion of North Carolina's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA SLFRF) to expand access to high-speed internet infrastructure and help North Carolinians get the digital skills, devices, and digital navigation programs intended to address the high cost of an internet subscription.

One major challenge persists: we can run fiber broadband to every home in North Carolina, but if the residents can't afford the service, they still risk being left behind. Fortunately, Congress created a tremendously impactful tool to combat the high costs of internet service as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), administered by the Federal Communications Commission, provides qualified low-income households \$30 per month off the cost of an internet subscription or \$100 off the cost of a device.

There is broad agreement across the political spectrum that affordable high-speed internet is a necessity in today's world, whether it's for education, work or health care. This is why I urge you to reauthorize this critical program that makes internet access more affordable. It is essential that people do not lose access to the internet that this vital program has allowed them to gain.

The ACP is already helping more than 841,000 North Carolinians. We have worked to raise awareness of the program and currently have about 46 percent of eligible N.C. households enrolled. Only three states have a higher rate of eligible people participating. As of June 30, 2023, approximately 47,855 households have enrolled in the ACP in your district, which represents 16 percent of all households in your district.

The ACP is a critical complement to our collective efforts to expand access to broadband infrastructure in rural, unserved communities. With \$42.5\$ billion in Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) funding going to the states, we want to maximize this once-in-a-generation opportunity. The ACP plays a valuable role in helping households afford broadband and encouraging internet providers to build out rural broadband infrastructure. Recent analysis indicates that the ACP reduces the subsidy needed to incentivize providers to build in rural regions by 25% per household, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used to their maximum potential.

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Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions about the ACP or our efforts to close the digital divide in your district, please do not hesitate to contact Jim McCleskey, Director of my Washington, D.C. Office at jim.mccleskey@nc.gov or Nate Denny, Deputy Secretary for Broadband and Digital Equity with the N.C. Department of Information Technology at nate.denny@nc.gov.

With kind regards I am

Very truly yours,

Roy Cooper



ROY COOPER GOVERNOR

September 25, 2023

The Honorable Dan Bishop 2459 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bishop:

Having a high-speed internet connection – and the ability to use it – is critical to modern life. That's why the N.C. General Assembly and I have directed more than \$1 billion of North Carolina's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA SLFRF) to expand access to high-speed internet infrastructure and help North Carolinians get the digital skills, devices, and digital navigation programs intended to address the high cost of an internet subscription.

One major challenge persists: we can run fiber broadband to every home in North Carolina, but if the residents can't afford the service, they still risk being left behind. Fortunately, Congress created a tremendously impactful tool to combat the high costs of internet service as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), administered by the Federal Communications Commission, provides qualified low-income households \$30 per month off the cost of an internet subscription or \$100 off the cost of a device.

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The ACP is already helping more than 841,000 North Carolinians. We have worked to raise awareness of the program and currently have about 46 percent of eligible N.C. households enrolled. Only three states have a higher rate of eligible people participating. As of June 30, 2023, approximately 60,309 households have enrolled in the ACP in your district, which represents 22 percent of all households in your district.

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Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions about the ACP or our efforts to close the digital divide in your district, please do not hesitate to contact Jim McCleskey, Director of my Washington, D.C. Office at jim.mccleskey@nc.gov or Nate Denny, Deputy Secretary for Broadband and Digital Equity with the N.C. Department of Information Technology at nate.denny@nc.gov.

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Roy Cooper