



February 12, 2024

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable JD Vance
288 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Brad Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Troy Balderson
2429 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators and Representatives:

We are writing to express our strong support for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), authorized through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

As Appalachian mayors, we have seen first-hand how the ACP has empowered our constituents who grew up on the wrong side of the digital divide. In fact, in communities throughout Ohio, rural and urban alike, over one million households – nearly 55 percent of those eligible – currently rely on the program. That's 14% higher participation than the national average of 41%. Total enrollment in the ACP has more than doubled since December 2021, expanding from 9.2 million households to 19.5 million in July 2023. In Congressional Districts 02 and 12, 1 in 4 Ohioans are utilizing the program, totally 145,489 households.

The ACP is giving our constituents, and other deserving Ohioans, the ability to share in increased economic, education and health care opportunities. In short, it's improving the quality of their lives on a daily basis.

We urge you to support continuation of this highly successful program that is truly making a difference in our region.

Sincerely,

Steve Patterson, President
Mayor, Athens

Jennifer Lyle, Vice-President
Mayor, New Concord