



April 29, 2024

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
428 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján
Chair
Subcommittee on Communications,
Media, and Broadband
498 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Cantwell and Chair Luján:

AARP, which advocates for more than 100 million Americans age 50 and older, is pleased to support the inclusion of \$7 billion for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) in the *Spectrum and National Security Act*.

In 2024, high-speed internet access is not a luxury; it is a necessity. AARP has long recognized that high-speed internet access supports a broad range of activities that are critical to older adults' ability to age in place. For older adults, access to broadband unlocks access to caregiving support, healthcare and governmental services, educational and economic opportunities, and social connections to stave off harmful isolation.

Currently, there are 23 million low- and fixed-income households receiving a monthly discount on their broadband service through the ACP, including 10 million households headed by someone age 50 and over. We have heard countless stories from older adults of how devastating it would be to lose access to affordable internet service. By including the use of spectrum auction proceeds to fund the ACP in your bill, you are ensuring that millions of Americans living on fixed and low incomes can stay connected.

AARP thanks you for your strong support for affordable internet service. We look forward to continuing to work with you and all of Congress to identify a long-term funding solution to continue this important program. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me or Dawit Kahsai at dkahsai@aarpp.org or (202) 651-0564.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Bill Sweeney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bill" being particularly prominent.

Bill Sweeney
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs