



Sample Letter to Political Representative

Dear [YOUR POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVE],

I am writing to ask your leadership with closing the digital divide in our county. The lack of affordable broadband in rural southern communities has created significant barriers to educational opportunities, maintain familial relations virtually, access to faith-based services, online voter registration, and access to healthcare.

The **Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)**, launched by the Federal Communications Commission in 2021, has provided nearly 18 million low-income households across the country with resources to pay for necessary broadband service. The ACP provides eligible households a \$30 per month discount on high-speed internet services, making access free for many participants. For example, as of May 2023, more than 750,000 North Carolina households are currently participating in the program.

Unfortunately, the future of this critically important program is hanging in the balance. Based on current take rates, the funding appropriated for the ACP program (\$14.2B) could be exhausted in late 2023 or early 2024. Congress must act now to replenish ACP funding for a few years until longer-term subsidy reforms are in place. If the ACP program expires, millions of households, and hundreds of thousands across the south, will lose financial support for their broadband needs. As a constituent and concerned citizen, I urge you to take action to address this pressing issue. Specifically, I ask you to support extension of the ACP, a critical tool for bridging the digital divide for communities of color and rural communities that have been left behind in the digital revolution.

We deserve the same services that most other Americans have. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to your response and actions on this important issue.

Sincerely,
YOUR NAME



Sample Letter to Political Representative

Dear [YOUR POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVE],

I am writing to ask your leadership with closing the digital divide in our county. The lack of affordable broadband in rural southern communities has created significant barriers to educational opportunities, maintain familial relations virtually, access to faith-based services, online voter registration, and access to healthcare.

The **Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)**, launched by the Federal Communications Commission in 2021, has provided nearly 18 million low-income households across the country with resources to pay for necessary broadband service. The ACP provides eligible households a \$30 per month discount on high-speed internet services, making access free for many participants. For example, currently, over 1 million Florida households are signed up and receiving the ACP benefits.

Unfortunately, the future of this critically important program is hanging in the balance. Based on current take rates, the funding appropriated for the ACP program (\$14.2B) could be exhausted in late 2023 or early 2024. Congress must act now to replenish ACP funding for a few years until longer-term subsidy reforms are in place. If the ACP program expires, millions of households, and hundreds of thousands across the south, will lose financial support for their broadband needs. As a constituent and concerned citizen, I urge you to take action to address this pressing issue. Specifically, I ask you to support extension of the ACP, a critical tool for bridging the digital divide for communities of color and rural communities that have been left behind in the digital revolution.

We deserve the same services that most other Americans have. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to your response and actions on this important issue.

Sincerely,
YOUR NAME



Sample Letter To State Broadband Office

Dear [STATE BROADBAND OFFICE],

I am writing to urge (name of state) broadband leaders to provide more access to broadband services, particularly in rural southern Black communities in my state. The lack of reliable internet access in these areas has created significant barriers to educational opportunities, maintain familial relations virtually, access to faith-based services, online voting registration practices, and access to healthcare.

As a resident in a rural district, I have witnessed firsthand the impact of the digital divide on our communities. Many households lack access to reliable internet services, making it difficult for them to participate fully in online learning, telehealth services, or remote work. This is especially true in southern Black rural communities, where the lack of broadband infrastructure affects these communities at two times the rate it affects white communities and has created significant inequities.

As (name of state) expands broadband deployment with funding under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) grants, I urge the state to take action to address this critical issue. Specifically, I urge you to expand broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved areas, including rural southern Black communities.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I believe that by working together, we can bridge the digital divide and ensure that everyone can have access to the tools and resources they need to succeed.

Sincerely,
YOUR NAME