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February 7, 2024

Honorable Senator Tim Kaine
231 Russel Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Tim Kaine,

On behalf of the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, I write to urge your support in favor of the recently introduced Affordable Connectivity Program Extension Act and appreciate your championing of this legislation amongst your colleagues to build bipartisan support for this bill.

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) has proven its importance through the thousands of individuals that have benefited from broadband access and allowing ACP to lapse would set back Virginia's efforts to close the digital divide in our rural communities.

In Albemarle County, more than 2,550 Albemarle households rely on the \$30 per month that is provided by the ACP. Allowing a funding gap in this program would leave these struggling households to either forgo other needed expenses or go without necessary internet service.

Broadband service is not the luxury it once was – every day, households of all means conduct business on-line, engage government services through the web, receive medical care through telehealth/virtual visits, and learn using web-based tools. Until recently, none of this was possible for the tens of thousands that lived in Albemarle's rural areas. Thousands in our rural and urban communities will find themselves unable to engage in these basic activities if funding for ACP is allowed to lapse. The impact of this will not just be felt in Albemarle, but across the more than 450,000 households enrolled in ACP throughout Virginia.

Thank you for your continued support of the residents of Virginia and your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jim H. Andrews
Chair, Albemarle County Board of Supervisors

CC:
Albemarle County Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey B. Richardson, County Executive
Steve Rosenberg, County Attorney