

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 23, 2021

The Honorable Janet Yellen
Secretary
United States Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Yellen,

We appreciate your work to implement the American Rescue Plan and the development of guidelines for the provisions enacted in this historic legislation.

We write to you today in regards to the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund established in the American Rescue Plan to, “help States, Puerto Rico, D.C., Territories, and Tribal governments to carry out critical capital projects directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID–19).”

The Congressional intent of the \$10 billion Capital Projects Fund is to provide dedicated funding to states, localities, and tribal governments to improve broadband connectivity for millions of unserved and underserved Americans. We encourage you to honor that intent by working with agencies with technical expertise in telecommunications policy and broadband deployment to issue guidance that bridges the digital divide and ensures affordable broadband access during the pandemic. To that end, we offer the attached recommendations to support your efforts in implementing guidelines for the Capital Projects Fund.

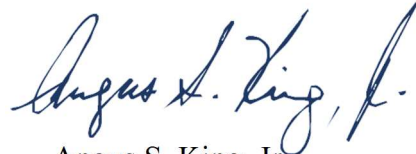
The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the critical importance of broadband in ensuring economic opportunity and supporting telework, distance education, and access to health care. Unfortunately, far too many Americans continue to lack connectivity and adequate access to these opportunities, and the pandemic has only widened this gap. With appropriate and thoughtful implementation of the Capital Projects Fund, we can take significant steps in ensuring all Americans can access the benefits of broadband and the digital economy.

We look forward to working with you on implementing the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund and ensuring we provide opportunities for all Americans.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator