Dear Representatives McNerney, Luján, and Clarke:

On behalf of the more than 19,000 cities, towns, and villages represented by the National League of Cities (NLC), we thank you for your leadership through the introduction of H.R. 4486, the Digital Equity Act of 2019. We are pleased to support this legislation, which would address the growing digital divide in our country.

Despite improvements in broadband access, too many historically disadvantaged populations lack the skills, technologies, and supports needed to fully use broadband access. Even within communities with excellent overall broadband infrastructure, these populations are unable to benefit from new opportunities in education, healthcare, jobs, and social services made available through broadband.

Local leaders need support to ensure that the benefits of broadband are realized by all people. The reasons for digital inequity are different in every community, and the solutions to these problems must be equally varied. Ongoing federal support for locally tailored digital equity programming will help meet the diverse needs of our communities. Enshrining the federal government’s role as a digital equity partner to local governments will help ensure these programs are as effective as possible.
As Congress works to make infrastructure investments throughout America, we encourage passage of this important legislation, which contributes to the economic vitality of America’s cities. We look forward to partnering with you and your colleagues in support of its passage.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Clarence Anthony
CEO and Executive Director