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**Chief Executive Officer/
Executive Director**
Clarence E. Anthony

Clarence Anthony
CEO & Executive Director
National League of Cities
660 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC 20100

February 18, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

As the voice of America's cities, towns, and villages, representing more than 200 million people across the country, the National League of Cities (NLC) looks forward to working with the Biden-Harris Administration and your teams at the Federal Communications Commission and National Telecommunications and Information Administration on resolving the connectivity challenges that have plagued our communities. The FCC's and NTIA's roles as the nation's chief regulators and funders of broadband service directly impacts the ability of our residents, businesses, and students to fully engage with work, school, and civic life.

As you continue to build your Administration's leadership, we urge you to swiftly appoint a fifth FCC commissioner, nominate a permanent FCC Chair and Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information for NTIA so that the Commission and NTIA may take immediate meaningful action to distribute broadband funding and protect consumers. NLC fully supports the appointment of Commissioner Rosenworcel as Acting FCC Chair, but her work will be hampered without a permanent nomination to the chair's seat and a full slate of commissioners. Similarly, NTIA is faced with an enormous amount of responsibility in the wake of the 2020 omnibus package and needs permanent leadership to proactively organize and coordinate the nation's strategy to close the digital divide. We also urge you to prioritize filling these vacancies with leaders who have experience in public sector program administration, particularly former state or local leaders.

Local governments desperately want to close the digital divide in their communities and provide every resident with fast, reliable, affordable broadband access. Local leaders have moved mountains over the course of the pandemic to purchase and distribute wireless hotspots and laptops, deploy free Wi-Fi in outdoor public spaces to allow for safe social distancing, and subsidize in-home broadband subscriptions. In many cases, communities were put in this position because of broken buildout promises from ISPs, digital redlining, local monopolies, state barriers to municipal broadband investments, and outdated federal regulations and programs.

Again, we look forward to collaborating with your Administration on these issues and urge you to nominate a fifth commissioner and permanent FCC and NTIA leaders as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Clarence E. Anthony

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clarence E. Anthony', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

CEO and Executive Director
National League of Cities