

January 31, 2022

To: Chair John Lively, Vice Chairs Jamie Cate and Jason Kropf, and Members of the Committee

As one of your constituents from Ashland, I am writing to encourage you to vote for the passage of HB 4092. I believe it is so very important that ALL Oregonians can be connected to the internet and be part of our digital world. Too many of our children go without valuable educational time because they lacked internet service. And I ask you, as a former teacher and administrator, how can we sacrifice our future for lack of an internet connection?

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated and spotlighted significant broadband gaps existing across the state—Oregonians without broadband service miss opportunities for work, education, religious services, medical care, social connection and more. But as an educator, my largest concern is for the children who miss out.

We, here in Oregon, have a rare opportunity to right this basic wrong with the receipt of more than \$200 million from ARPA and IIJA funds allocated to broadband funding.

As President of the Ashland branch of AAUW, I work for equity every day. Please act NOW and vote FOR this bill. The future lies in our children, and, as such, our future depends on it!

Thank you for your time and attention.

Catherine Lutes
President
Ashland AAUW