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For Immediate Release

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER GEOFFREY STARKS
ON ACP AND RIP AND REPLACE FUNDING REQUEST**

WASHINGTON, October 26, 2023—FCC Commissioner Geoffrey Starks issued the following statement on President Biden’s inclusion of key telecommunications and national security priorities in his [supplemental funding request](#) to Congress:

“I’m proud to stand with the Biden Administration on prioritizing additional funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program and the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program, which many of us know as ‘rip-and-replace.’

As I said [back in March](#), sustaining funding for ACP is an essential national priority. As of today, the program is helping more than 21.4 million American households—in rural, urban, suburban, and tribal communities throughout the country—get online, stay online, and secure the opportunities that only broadband can deliver in a 21st-century economy. Continuing the program would ensure that those households are not left behind and that we continue to make progress in connecting every last American to high-speed internet. Importantly, it also would strengthen rural deployment efforts through programs like the BEAD by reducing the subsidy needed to reach unserved and underserved locations.

Rip-and-replace is also an urgent national—and national security—priority. As Senator Peters, Chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, and I [wrote back in April](#), fully funding the program would help us eradicate insecure Chinese equipment and services from our networks, including facilities near our military bases. And it would do so without forcing rural communities into the impossible and deeply unfair position of choosing between insecure services ripe for espionage and surveillance or no service at all.”

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