Date

(Name of your Senator)

U.S. Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Name,

Since 2005, the number of Internet users has more than tripled from 1 billion to 3.2 billion users worldwide and is perhaps the most innovative advancement in the field of communication in the history of mankind. However, 60 percent of the world’s population remain offline and the growth rate of internet access is slowing. An estimated 75 percent of the offline population lives in just 20 countries and is largely rural, female, elderly, illiterate and low income.

I am writing to you to support the Digital GAP Act.

The benefits of having access to the internet include entertainment, communication, access to information and much more. Africa, in particular, is rich in natural resources as well, so increased access and knowledge of these resources can potentially fuel economies across the continent. In many cities across the globe, internet based technology will bring job opportunities, introduce “smart” government technologies and many lifesaving innovations, all of which will greatly improve living standards in these regions.

Using federal dollars to respond to these issues of poverty does not only put the United States in a position of international leadership, but it is also clear that poverty-reducing international aid directly comes back to positively impact American jobs.

This bill passed the House on September 7, 2016 and if the Senate can pass it as well, the Digital GAP Act would promote first-time Internet access for at least 1.5 billion people in developing countries by 2020 in urban and rural areas. Internet access is an important part of stabilizing the future for these individuals, and an important step to ensuring greater security for United States interests. I urge you to cosponsor the Digital GAP Act (H.R. 5537).

I would appreciate your reply, and would also like to thank you for taking the time to read my concerns, and giving consideration to supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Address