July 14, 2021

The Honorable Marie Newman
United State House of Representatives
1022 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC  20515

Dear Representative Newman:

AARP, on behalf of our nearly 38 million members and all older Americans nationwide, would like to thank you for your leadership in sponsoring the All Stations Accessibility Program (ASAP) Act of 2021, H.R. 3317.

The ASAP Act will support efforts to increase the number of accessible transit stations or facilities that meet or exceed accessibility design standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for rapid rail and commuter rail systems. Tens of thousands of older adults and people of all ages with mobility and other impairments are deprived of vital public transportation service because their transit system pre-dated the 1990 ADA and has not received the investment needed to bring it into compliance. This bill will establish a discretionary grant program that supports local transit authority and commuter rail accessibility improvements.

In 2019, 40 percent of adults age 65 and older reported trouble with mobility (walking or climbing stairs). Station improvements made possible by the ASAP Act will significantly expand the ability of transit users to reach jobs, health care, education and other important destinations, thereby facilitating the independence and freedom of movement for these individuals that many of us take for granted.

Thank you again for your leadership in sponsoring the ASAP Act. AARP looks forward to working with you to advance this legislation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or have your staff contact Debra Alvarez at (202) 434-3814.

Sincerely,

Bill Sweeney
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs