



October 5, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Pai:

WiscNet is pleased to support the appointment of Julie Tritt Schell to serve as a school representative on the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board.

WiscNet is a not-for-profit membership organization headquartered in Madison WI. We provide research and education networking services to over 500 community anchor institutions throughout Wisconsin. And of this number, over 80 percent of our members are school districts which receive Internet and other services from our organization. For our schools (and libraries) the E-rate program is of critical importance because it helps support their cost for Internet access and broadband connectivity. Thus WiscNet has a direct interest in the school representative on the USAC Board. To this end, we believe that Julie Tritt Schell is superbly qualified to serve on the board.

Julie has been the Pennsylvania State E-rate Coordinator for 17 years where she assists that state's 1,250 schools and libraries by providing hands-on training and extensive outreach. But Julie's in-depth knowledge of the E-rate program is well known—and well respected—beyond the borders of Pennsylvania too. For example, from a nationwide perspective she serves as Co-Chair of the State E-rate Coordinators' Alliance (SECA) which includes E-rate representatives from 46 states. In this position she is a critical voice in helping draft SECA's comments to the FCC and in meeting with FCC staff to advocate for the E-rate program.

In addition to having direct, in-depth experience with the E-rate program, WiscNet believes another essential qualification for board membership is that the person appointed actively contributes to board discussions and decision making. Based on her knowledge of the E-rate program and her SECA leadership we are certain Julie will actively participate in board discussions.

In conclusion, for all the above reasons WiscNet strongly encourages you to appoint Julie Tritt Schell to the USAC Board.

Sincerely,

David Lois
WiscNet Chief Executive Officer