We are pleased to be able to provide input on the impact of having access to secure and sufficient funding for our library WiFi and internal connections. As a librarian, and her family, we are very familiar with the struggles found in libraries both academic and public. Before the E-rate Modernization in 2014, virtually no libraries received funds for then, Priority 2 services. In fact, in Texas they continue to cut education funding, which includes libraries, and therefore our libraries are behind in available technologies and their access to wireless and wired internet access. It can be a daily struggle in some places. Unless we were at a 90% discount rate, we could assume there would be no funding left after all requests for internet access were funded. USAC data shows that most libraries are eligible for a 70% discount or less and according to the American Library Association, many libraries stopped bothering to apply for WiFi funding because of the difficulty in obtaining it. Some states have reported that none of their libraries have received WiFi funds since the beginning of the E-rate program. In communities across the country, people turn to the library to use our WiFi on their tablets, laptops, and other devices because of the expense they are unable to afford it at home. Library users are downloading job applications, applying for financial aid, seeking health information, and communicating with family - all dependent on a strong WiFi signal. Increasingly, libraries also provide services that depend on WiFi, like coding clubs for K12 youth and research of all kinds for students, job seekers, and business. Libraries everywhere know WiFi throughout the library is not a “nice to have” - it's a core community service. This is especially true if the library is located in poor rural communities where the money for a library is an afterthought after basic necessities. With the commitment of the FCC to ensure a library budget of $2.30 ($5.00 for a selected category of larger urban and suburban libraries) per square foot, libraries can hopefully upgrade outdated equipment or plan for new construction if we are able to keep this funding available. They will finally have some confidence that the desperately needed support will be there when they can apply, and actually be able to get it, without an incredible amount of time and effort spent to do so. Please maintain secure funding through the full five year budget period as adopted during the 2014 Modernization, and beyond. Our communities literally depend on that funding to be available.