In the Matter of: Wireline Competition Bureau Seeking Comments on E-rate Category Two ) WC Docket No. 13-184

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.

Before the E-rate Modernization in 2014, virtually no libraries received funds for then, Priority 2 services. 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. Even with USAC data showing that most libraries are eligible for a 70% discount or less, some states report that none of their libraries have received WiFi funds since the beginning of the E-rate program.

The fact of the matter is, that communities across the country depend on the library for WiFi use. Thousands of sessions take place each month at our library alone, as we supply guests free access on their tablets, laptops, and other devices. Our library users depend on this to download job applications, apply for financial aid, seek health information, and communicate with family - all which is dependent on a strong WiFi signal. Additionally, to support educational goals like STEM and STEAM, libraries now also provide services that depend on WiFi, like our *Girls Who Code Club* which allows girls K-12 the opportunity to explore coding concepts and helps prepare them for the future.

Libraries everywhere know WiFi throughout the library is not a “nice to have” - it's a core community service.

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($5.00 for a selected category of larger urban and suburban libraries) per square foot, libraries can finally upgrade outdated equipment or plan for new construction. They have confidence that desperately needed support will be there. Please maintain secure funding through the full five-year budget period as adopted during the 2014 Modernization.

Our communities depend on that funding.

Respectfully,

Mary Aylmer, Director

Chillicothe Public Library District

Chillicothe, Illinois