

Lincoln County Public Library

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October 20, 2017

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. 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. Some states have reported that none of their libraries have received WiFi funds since the beginning of the E-rate program.

In our community, we see an increase in the number of people coming to the library to use our WiFi on their tablets, laptops, and other devices. They are applying for jobs, completing online school work, seeking jobs and health information, and communicating with family - all dependent on a strong WiFi signal. We provide programs that rely on WiFi like coding club for children. WiFi is a core service our library provides.

With the commitment of the FCC to ensure a library budget of \$2.30 per square foot, we are finally able to update our outdated equipment and increase our overall speed to access the internet. We 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.

Sincerely,

Amanda Gearhart

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Director