

OCT 10 2017

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

CC: 02-6

GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

September 18, 2017

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Mr. Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Dear Chairman Pai:

As governor of Texas, I am writing in support of the Texas Education Agency's request for relief and flexibility for Texas public schools, charter schools, private schools and public library participants in the E-rate program. Many of our communities have experienced unprecedented devastation due to Hurricane Harvey, and we are beginning our long road to recovery. The restoration of the telecommunications networks in the impacted areas is vital to this extensive effort to rebuild our communities across the Texas coast. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is uniquely positioned to assist us in those efforts.

The FCC can specifically help expedite Texas' recovery efforts with timely and efficient funding to repair, restore and rebuild the telecommunications capacity of our schools and libraries in the affected areas. In addition, schools and libraries that were not destroyed or damaged by Hurricane Harvey may see dramatic increases in attendance and usage as evacuees from the storm temporarily — or even permanently — relocate to other areas of Texas. We are not requesting additional funding from the E-rate program; rather, I ask for your assistance in providing Texas schools and libraries all available flexibilities in how they are able to spend their existing E-rate funding as a tool for disaster recovery.

Thank you for your consideration of this request that will provide critical assistance to the many schools and libraries across the state affected by this incredible natural disaster.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor

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