Petition for Reconsideration
Request to waive the Invoice Deadline for FY2015

White Lake School District (BEN: 133253)
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Dear FCC:
This is a Petition for Reconsideration regarding the prior Request to waive the Invoice Deadline for FY2015 that was denied (release date January 17, 2017).


The district was unable to complete a 472 application OR request an invoice extension for these FRN’s due to unfortunate circumstances. The business manager who has done the E-rate application process for years, was having serious medical difficulties in the summer and fall of 2016, including during the month of October 2016. She required serious medical procedures on October 10th and beyond for that medical issue. The manager in fact has not and will not return to her position due to the difficulties. A replacement for her position was not acquired until early November 2016, beyond the deadline to request an invoice extension. The district hired Michael Dailey of CESA 9 as the E-rate consultant for the district (CRN: 16062593) in mid-December 2016. The district would like to file BEAR/472 applications for the 3 FRN’s, but of course that will require a waiver of the invoice/472 deadline for FY2015 by the FCC.

We would like to present additional detailed information to consider for the Petition for Reconsideration. We have decided to personalize (without using the person’s name) this so there is a clear expression of the circumstances and a true understanding of the impact of a further denial.

The business manager’s struggle will be detailed more deeply. She was an outstanding employee of the White Lake School District. For years, she faithfully completed the 470, 471, 486 and 472 applications for the district. She was the e-rate “go-to” person for the small rural school district in which there are few support staff and those they do have, wear many “hats”.

Superintendent Bill Fisher never had to worry about E-rate deadlines for the district due to the business manager’s experience and sensitivity to timelines. Superintendent Fisher is the district
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administrator of two school districts in North Central/North Eastern Wisconsin (White Lake and Elcho), so being able to rely on The business manager to complete the timelines over the years was an essential benefit for a district with few support staff and multiple responsibilities. His trust and appreciation for her e-rate performance over the years was well-founded.

We have considered at length why the BEAR applications or invoice extensions were not done by the business manager for FY2015 when she always quietly met those timelines in the past. The following is our retrospective. The district and the business manager were met with a situation that was out of their control. Spring, Summer and Fall of 2016 for the business manager was a time when, before she or the district was aware, a tumor was growing in her brain and already affecting her short term memory, creating debilitating headaches and impacting her typical outstanding job performance. Progressively, the tumor began to be more overt in its expression. Still not cognizant of the etiology of her changing health and awareness, she blacked out at a function on October 4, 2016. While hospitalized, medical personnel were still unable to determine the cause of her black out or progressive health issues. The business manager again went to her doctor on October 10, 2016. Finally, medical personnel determined that she had a large tumor on her brain. Surgery was executed in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on October 17, 2016. The business manager remained in the hospital in Milwaukee until November 10th. The business manager has not been in the school district since October 10th, 2016. She continues to suffer sight and continued memory loss since returning to White Lake from Milwaukee. She is unable to return to the district because of her disability. Her position was filled in early November and of course the effort in this little district to replace the business manager has been on-going since she did much more than E-rate.

A very sad part of this story is that in November when The business manager’s replacement came on board, she noted that the business manager had highlighted October 28th on her personal calendar to prompt her about 472 deadlines and invoice extension deadlines. She was not able to be there for those deadlines. Her medical condition and cognitive focus did not allow her to delegate this function. The district was unable to anticipate these events and could not have anticipated the tumor was impacting the business manager well before October, when even medical staff struggled to make a diagnosis. The contracted systems administrator for the district had left for another position in the summer, so the typical potential backup was no longer there. Of course, the huge impact on the business manager’s life in October surely shows she was unable to perform her e-rate functions, was fighting for her life and staying alive was the focus of her cognitive functions. What we didn’t know then, but know now, was that tumor had been impacting her many months before its more overt expression.

The business manager did not mean to miss e-rate deadlines. The business manager had no idea a debilitating tumor was impacting her memory, performance and health during the spring and summer and early fall of 2016. The school district did not know a brain tumor was growing in the business manager and impacting her. Certainly the events of October 2016 for the business manager and the district were to focus on huge life-threatening events and trying to keep functions minimally moving forward as the business manager was unable to do her job or communicate with staff. It would be a cruel irony that the business manager, for actions and events beyond her control, would feel responsible for the loss of over $25,000 in E-rate commitments to this tiny close-knit rural school district.

We petition for a reconsideration of our request for a waiver of the 472 invoicing deadline, FY2015, for the White Lake School District, for the FRN’s noted above. Neither The business manager, the school
district, or the students of White Lake should be punished due to this unique sequence of events, by a progressive, insidious brain tumor, that prevented a typically timely submission of 472 applications and/or invoice extension requests.

White Lake is a small school district in northeastern Wisconsin with an elementary and high school. With an enrollment of approximately 171 students, the district does not have a large number of support staff. Additionally, the commitment dollars are critically important to the district in terms of fiscal impact. Please consider granting this Petition for Reconsideration of this waiver as soon as possible so the district can acquire its approved discounts for FY2015.

Sincerely,

Michael Dailey

Michael Dailey, E-rate Consultant
White Lake School District
2/14/2017