



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

As a Niles Maine Library Trustee I am pleased to provide input on the impact of having access to secure and sufficient funding for our library Wi-Fi and Internet 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 Wi-Fi funding. Some States have reported that none of their libraries have received Wi-Fi Funds since the beginning of the e-rate program.

Our residents in the Niles Maine Library District turn to the library to use our Wi-Fi on their tablets and laptops. Library users are using the Wi-Fi to complete research for school assignments, downloading job applications, applying for financial aid, seeking questions about retirement and health Insurance information and communicating with their family. Our library users depend on a strong and reliable Wi-Fi throughout our library facility and it's 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 select category of larger and urban and suburban libraries) per square foot, we and other libraries will be able to update our outdated equipment and provide more effective coverage within our facilities.

Please maintain secure funding through the full five year budget period as adopted during the 2014 Modernization. Our communities depend on that funding to provide all a better tomorrow.

Best Regards,

Dennis Martin

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