



Ajit Pai
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
4455 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of:
Wireline Competition Bureau Seeking Comments on E-rate Category Two

WC Docket No. 13-184

On behalf of the Texas Library Association's (TLA) almost 7,000 members, we are pleased to provide input on the importance of continued, secure Category 2 (C2) funding.

College students, jobseekers, K-12 students, small business owners, entrepreneurs, researchers, seniors, and community members across Texas rely on libraries as a vital link to online information and resources. Having access to secure and sufficient E-rate funding is critical to ensure Texas libraries can maintain and upgrade WiFi and internal connectivity equipment to meet these needs.

Ongoing affordability is the most significant challenge in delivering robust broadband to communities according to a 2016 TLA survey. Libraries must continue to invest significant resources in costly internet equipment and services, and expand their WiFi and internal connectivity to offer enhanced access to their communities.

Since the FCC's 2014 E-rate Modernization, libraries have worked hard to access their share of available federal funding and invest those funds to achieve community success. In 2016, libraries requested more than \$50 million for C2 through the E-rate program. The program changes put in place as a result of the Modernization have helped libraries increase broadband capacity and improve Wi-Fi access.

Broadband is a critical infrastructure priority, and with the FCC's commitment 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for a selected category of larger urban and suburban libraries) per square foot, libraries can continue to upgrade outdated equipment or plan for new construction.

The Texas Library Association respectfully urges the FCC to maintain secure funding through the full five year budget period as adopted during the 2014 Modernization. Our communities depend on that funding to ensure that all individuals have access to online resources that are essential to education, economic and personal development, research, and free speech.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ling Hwey Jeng".

Ling Hwey Jeng
TLA President

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dana Braccia".

Dana Braccia
Executive Director

Texas Library Association Comments
October 23, 2017