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Chairman Ajit Pai
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW,
Washington, DC 20554

October XX, 2017

Dear Chairman Pai,

I am writing today in response to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Public Notice which, among other things, considers changes to the E-Rate program. Before delving into my response to the proposed changes, I want to thank the FCC for your continued support for the E-Rate program and for the critical programmatic and policy changes the commission adopted in 2014. The E-Rate program provides critical discounts to assist schools (like mine) to obtain affordable telecommunications and internet access.

Being a small school in Lake County, Ohio with just under 1200 students the E-Rate dollars provided help our district continue to improve our infrastructure and expand our digital learning at a reduced cost. The money the E-Rate allows us to save allows us to stay ahead of the curve and keep our systems running efficiently to best educate our students, particularly as we continue to expand our 1:1 initiative K-12.

The E-Rate program is a program succeeding in its mission. As the FCC moves forward with this public notice, it is prudent to remain focused on the fact that E-Rate is a program that works. Any changes to the E-Rate program should be focused on expanding a successful program that has yet to reach its full potential and ensuring the FCC remains a good steward of the changes adopted 2014, allowing those changes to progress and play out as intended.

E-Rate played a critical role is the rapid and significant expansion of connectivity in schools, and the 2014 modernization was a much needed update to ensure more schools and libraries are connected to broadband. The E-Rate's investment in Category 2 Wi-Fi and internal connections funding is extremely valuable and could not be replaced by school, district or state funds.

Specifically, we have used the Category 2 E-Rate funds to reduce the costs of internal network hardware to support wireless connectivity for student devices which includes switches, access points, wiring, and hosted wireless lan controller service. Likewise, we intend to continue to use the funds for improving our infrastructure to keep up with the demand that an increased number of devices and newer devices, plus improved technology would require to properly operate in the future.

In closing, I reiterate my district's continued strong support for and reliance upon the E-Rate program for being able to access and afford the high-speed connectivity that is so central to our students' learning. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Mr. William Wade

Kirtland Schools Superintendent