

Blanco County South Library District

James A. and Evelyn Williams Memorial Library

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October 23, 2017

In the Matter of:

Wireline Competition Bureau Seeking Comments on E-rate Category Two

WC Docket No. 13-184

As a rural, small library, we are pleased to be able to provide input on the impact of having access to secure and sufficient funding for our library WiFi and networks. 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 WiFi funding. The Blanco County South Library District highly relies on E-Rate funding to be able to provide fast and reliable internet service to our patrons.

In our community, many people turn to the library for internet access. In a single day, about half of our patron are utilizing our WiFi for educational, personal, and professional purposes. Library users are downloading job applications, applying for financial aid, seeking health information, and communicating with family. Libraries everywhere know WiFi throughout the library is not a "nice to have" - it's a core community service. This is especially crucial to rural areas where internet access, especially speedy and dependable internet service, is limited.

With the commitment of the FCC 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(\$5.00 for a selected category of larger urban and suburban libraries) per square foot, libraries can finally upgrade outdated equipment or plan for new construction. They have confidence that desperately needed support will be there.

Please maintain secure funding through the full five-year budget period as adopted during the 2014 Modernization. Our communities depend on that funding.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Crystal Spybuck".

Crystal Spybuck

Library Director