



**In the Matter of:**

Wireline Competition Bureau Seeking Comments on E-rate Category Two ) WC Docket No. 13-184

We are pleased to be able to provide input on the impact of having access to secure and sufficient funding for our library Wi-Fi and internal connections and request that funding be maintained through the full five-year budget period as adopted during the 2014 E-rate Modernization. Our communities and libraries depend on that funding to provide reliable wireless access to our constituents.

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(\$5.00 for a selected category of larger urban and suburban libraries) per square foot, libraries can finally upgrade outdated Wi-Fi equipment or plan for new construction.

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 WiFi funds since the beginning of the E-rate program.

The Central Arkansas Library System, like so many other libraries, see growing numbers of users with mobile devices, tablets, and laptops in our libraries. Students conducting research, job seekers applying for positions, entrepreneurs checking email or using online productivity tools, those in need applying for government assistance, we are able to provide Internet access for all of these activities, and reach far more people than we could with traditional computer labs, by providing a reliable wireless network.

Sincerely,

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