**In the Matter of:**

Wireline Competition Bureau ) WC Docket No. 13-184

Seeking Comments on E-rate Category Two )

I am writing in support of the E-rate funding for libraries. When I am travelling, there are times when I need a printed copy of an online document. It is so wonderful to know that all I need to do is find a local library and use their computers or Wi-Fi to print my documents on their printers. That is not something you can get using the Wi-Fi at McDonalds! I can’t tell you how often I have stopped by my local library to check things on the Internet because my phone battery was dead once again! I am so lucky to live in the Kansas City metro area where there are many library branches close to my work and home. Please continue to fund the E-rate program to keep this service viable. When I stop in the library, there are often lines of people waiting for access to the computers. It’s also very handy to download my digital audiobooks at a library branch because their Wi-Fi is so much faster than my home service. I can get 4-5 audiobooks downloaded in the time it takes to check out the physical books I have on hold. At home, that could take over an hour or more.

We are pleased to provide reply comments on the impact of having access to secure and sufficient funding for our library WiFi and internal connections. We echo the call to the FCC of more than 140 libraries to ensure a fully funded and stable E-rate program, including maintaining the category two (C2) budget system for libraries. Comments submitted to the FCC came from small rural libraries, suburban libraries, and large urban libraries, all of which indicate they depend on the E-rate program to provide internet access as a core community service.

Before the E-rate Modernization in 2014, virtually no libraries received funds for then, Priority 2 services. Comments filed in response to this Public Notice indicate libraries are taking advantage of the C2 funding made available through the Modernization. We support the points made by the American Library Association (ALA) that underscore that it is premature for the FCC to make changes to the budget system given that we are midstream in the five-year C2 system. We also support the recommendations made by ALA to make it easier and more streamlined for libraries to apply for C2 funding.

In communities across the country, people turn to the library to use our WiFi on their tablets, laptops, and other devices. Library users are downloading job applications, applying for financial aid, seeking health information, and communicating with family - all dependent on a strong WiFi signal. Increasingly, libraries also provide services that depend on WiFi, like coding clubs for K12 youth. Libraries everywhere know WiFi throughout the library is 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 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.

It is clear for library comments filed, that the FCC should maintain secure funding through the full five-year budget period as adopted during the 2014 Modernization. Our communities depend on that funding.

Sincerely,

Pam Vogt

6115 N Cleveland Ave

Gladstone, MO 64119