Dear Madam or Sir,

Without affordable, high-speed internet access, many students in our community would be cut off from the resources and materials they need to succeed in the classroom. By auctioning off EBS spectrum to the highest bidder and allowing corporations to take control of this public resource you are impeding their learning, furthering the digital divide and jeopardizing their future. Please leave EBS alone!  
   
There are many reasons children can fall behind their peers, but, in the year 2018, a lack of internet access shouldn’t be one of them. Each day, children in Hopkins use EBS spectrum to access the information they need to keep up in the classroom and at home. Without this public resource, children from lower-income homes would be at a disadvantage to their classmates, unable to connect to the resources required to complete their homework and missing out on other learning opportunities available online. If the FCC eliminates the educational requirement for EBS spectrum and hands over this public resource to corporations, students across the country will suffer. Please don’t contribute to the homework gap that so many of us are working every day to address.   
   
For our school district, and many others that serve historically marginalized communities, EBS spectrum is the only way we can afford to stay connected online. That is why it is so concerning to hear that the FCC is considering changing rules to how this public resource is owned and regulated. While we have the option to purchase internet from a traditional internet provider today, we use EBS spectrum because it is the only affordable option for reliable, unlimited internet access in our region. It is vital that we’re able to offer high-speed access without data limits because our community members rely on it to continue their education online, complete their homework and stay connected to the world. That is why I’m asking the FCC to leave EBS spectrum alone and preserve this public resource for its intended purpose -- to educate and expand opportunities for all.

Thank you,

Ivar Nelson

Director of Technology, Media and Information Systems

Hopkins Public Schools

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