Erate has allowed us to improve our technological infrastructure and broadband capabilities to meet the demands of the community and societal expectations in regards to student proficiency with the use of technology. With the demands of the Ohio Department of Education for students to be tested in an electronic format, the use of Erate funds has allowed Midview to expand its internet and broadband capabilities as to minimize the distraction and disruption to the educational process that these standardized tests truly are.

Without the funds provided, Midview would have had to utilize its own funds, or seek outside dollars, to build capacity for devices linking into the internet being delivered into the Midview schools by outside providers. Over the past five years, they have changed the rules and regulations for what projects can be funded by Erate without providing much guidance, by adding these additional regulations, it bastardizes the true intent of Erate funding for schools which is expanding equitable access to connectivity in multiple areas, Erate being one of them.

The proposed funding changes would put a cap on dollars delivered to organizations it was intended to help and create a competition amongst said organizations that need to be working together to improve their communities and the services offered to those within them. There is also an uncertainty around the funding model and a lack of clarity as to how funds will be decided upon which hurts us as a district that depends on these funds on a regular basis to continue to build our capacity to deliver innovative services.

Thank you,

Bruce Willingham

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Commitment -- Communication -- Growth Mindset -- Teamwork

 #WEAREMIDVIEW

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Superintendent

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