To Whom It May Concern:

I have been involved with the E-Rate program for a rural school located on a Native American reservation since 2003. My involvement includes: developing the technology requirements, finding vendors, and applying to the E-Rate program. It is my understanding that congress and the senate would like to reduce E-Rate funds. Please be aware of the following facts:

1.   CAT2 funds are already limited. For our district, it is $310,000. Every 6 years, it takes $2M to update our network equipment. E-Rate used to cover that cost at 90%. The cost of upgrading the network equipment is much higher when you are located on a reservation town than when you are located in a city or even a town 30 minutes away. Also, that cost gets higher per student when you are a smaller school district.

2.   CAT1, if they place a budget on that, school districts like ours will be at a very significant disadvantage. The cost of getting 400Mbps of Internet connection for our district is $512K per year. In contrast, a school district located 30 minutes away from us gets 700Mbps of Internet connection for $72K per year. At a 72K budget per year, we would get about 80Mbps. The difference is: we are on a reservation and we don’t have access to “clean” fiber. The district located 30 minutes away can connect directly to a reliable Internet provider.

**Jennifer Plath**

Interim Superintendent

Whiteriver Unified School District

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