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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Notice of Ex Parte; Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries,
RM-11841, WC Docket No. 13-184, CC Docket No. 02-6.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday, August 20, 2019, Steven Metts, General Manager of Valley Telephone Cooperative (“Valley”), and his counsel, Clare L. Andonov and the undersigned with Herman & Whiteaker, LLC, met with Nirali Patel, Wireline Advisor to Chairman Ajit Pai of the Federal Communications Commission’s (the “Commission”). During the meeting, Mr. Metts discussed the potential waste in the Schools and Libraries (“E-Rate”) Program created in the services project awarded for funding year 2019 in the Cochise County Educational Technology Consortium (the “Consortium”) in Arizona. The Consortium is seeking special construction costs, in excess of \$29 million dollars, to lay new fiber to reach schools, many of which are already served with existing fiber. Mr. Metts demonstrated that largely due to the construction costs, the proposed project will cost rate payers an additional \$17,873,966 for the eighteen (18) locations currently served by Valley. Mr. Metts also expressed his support for the E-rate program generally and the benefit it provides to schools currently not connected by fiber. The parties discussed the Petition for Rulemaking in the above captioned proceeding and urged the Commission to release a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to address the overbuild and waste concerns described in the Petition.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's Rules, we are filing this letter electronically in the above-captioned docket. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. L. Herman, Jr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Donald L. Herman, Jr.
Clare L. Andonov
Counsel to Valley Telephone Cooperative

Cc: Nirali Patel (via email)