

August 21, 2017

Letter of Appeal to FCC  
WC Docket No. 13-184  
FCC, Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: CC Docket No. 02-6**  
LaGrande School District  
Form 471 Application # 161054859  
Applicant's Form Identifier: La Grande 19 CAT 2  
Billed Entity #145135  
FCC Registration #0011870359  
Funding Year: 2016

FRN's # 1699126957  
SPIN: 143028315  
SPIN Name: SHI Government

FRN's # 1699126968  
SPIN: 143049209  
SPIN Name: Shelco

This letter of appeal is in reference to CC Docket No. 02-6 for La Grande School District, BEN #145131.

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to appeal the Form 471 FCDL, dated 12/28/16 and RFCDL dated 8/9/2017 for La Grande SD, BEN 145135. Form 471 application #161054859, FRN #'s 1699126957 & 1699126968 due to USAC communication/notification failure as a result of USAC reviewer new staffing assignments without acceptable follow through.

On 11/11/16, Casey Seeger received correspondence from Veronica Gress, USAC reviewer, via email in regards to an application information Request for La Grande SD with the issue being that all the schools had requested more than their Cat. 2 budget would allow. In addition, La Grande SD had a change in technology director leadership and they discovered that incorrect models of UPS had been purchased using E-Rate funds from the 15-16 year, which complicated matters further. As a result, an extension was requested on 11/17/16, which moved the deadline date from 11/28/16 to 12/5/16 to allow time for La Grande to navigate the acceptable process and options in regards to returning 18 of the 20 UPS for the correct models. The cost of the correct model of UPS was approximately \$400 less for each UPS,

then the UPS that was originally requested which complicated the process. There was a delay getting final quotes from the vendor, therefore, Casey Seeger requested a second extension on 12/2/16 and also followed up with an email to Veronica Gress-- see attached email. With no response from Veronica on the status of the extension request, a second email inquiry was submitted. In addition to two emails, Veronica Gress was left three voicemails with no response from her.

On 12/16/16 a voicemail was left for Casey Seeger from James at USAC stating that there had been no response to the inquiry and if she did not get in touch with him immediately, the district could risk having their funding denied. James was called and left voicemails. Contact was attempted again on 12/19/16 with no response, and again on 12/20/16. When finally connected, we informed him of attempts since the first part of December, to connect with Veronica and provide her with updates, but had never received any response from her. James informed Casey Seeger he had never heard of a Veronica Gress, nor was she employed with USAC any longer, he had no knowledge of any of email exchanges with Veronica, nor had any voicemails been forwarded onto him.

On 12/28/16 we received the FCDL for App.# 161054859, which showed the requested funding amount of \$423,739.20 was denied. The FCDL comment was "Applicant has not provided sufficient documentation needed to determine the eligibility of the following items: modifications to bring entities 114537, 114538, 114539, 114542, 114543 and 114545 within their allowable Category Two budget."

We were making multiple attempts to make contact with the Case Manager (Veronica) by email and phone while attempting to submit extension requests and, unbeknownst to us, USAC was going through a staffing change. Lack of follow-through and/or communication by USAC employees has led to La Grande School District being denied a reasonable timeline to finalize the remaining balances on the Cat. 2 budgets. This resulted in denial of funding and a subsequent financial burden to La Grande School District.

We are asking to rescind the denial and fully fund this application for FRN 1699126957 and FRN 1699126968.

Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Melinda Miller', with a stylized, flowing script.

Melinda Miller, E-Rate Program Specialist  
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