

Hulbert Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent

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September 14, 2016

Mr. Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communication Commission

RE: WC Docket No. 10-90
WC Docket No. 14-259

As the superintendent of Hulbert Public Schools, I am writing this letter in support of Lake Region and its efforts to bring broadband to the Cherokee County. This much-needed service is not currently available to the majority of our students.

Broadband is transforming lives and bringing economic development to the areas that adopt it. However, Cherokee County residents have been left behind, with particularly devastating impact on our students. Broadband is available at the school. However, majority of our students do not have access to broadband at their homes and thus unable to do homework online. Research shows that over 31% of households with school-age children with annual income of under \$50,000 do not have access to high-speed internet at home. This is why I am so excited that Lake Region Electric Cooperative, through its subsidiary Lake Region Technology & Communications, LLC ("Lake Region") has answered our call for broadband when others would not. Lake Region has started building a fiber network to bring broadband to its member owners in Cherokee County, Oklahoma, an area which includes all of our students.

Hulbert Public Schools has the goal of providing a chrome book or laptop to each of our students in order to provide a digital curriculum within the next five years. We would have already accomplished this but since the majority of our students do not have access to the internet at home, we are unable to require them to use a digital curriculum. Over eighty percent (80%) of our students are economically disadvantaged and we provide several on-line tutorial, enrichment, and instructional activities for them to use at home to help close the achievement gap they experience. Without internet services at home, they cannot take advantage of these learning opportunities.

Lake Region's commitment to the community is not new. We were left in the dark when larger companies passed us over as they built electricity. In response, Lake Region Electric Cooperative was formed to bring power to its members on Oklahoma. Lake Region Electric Cooperative has been providing this essential service for nearly seventy years.

Broadband will empower our youth and create pathways for the younger generation to stay in their community. I urge you to grant Lake Region's application for review. Another day of delay is another day of missed opportunity for our students.

Thank you for supporting our students in Cherokee County, Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dewoody

Marilyn Dewoody, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Hulbert Public Schools