

NORWOOD SCHOOL  
7966 W. 790 RD.  
HULBERT, OKLAHOMA 74441

Telephone  
918-478-3092

Diana Garnatz  
Superintendent

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 Norwood Public Schools, I am writing this letter in support of Lake Region and its efforts to bring broadband to Cherokee County. This much-needed service is not currently available to the majority (approximately 80%) 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 a particularly devastating impact on our students. Thanks to funding from the Federal Communications Commission's E-rate program, high-capacity broadband is available at the school. However, 80% of our students do not have access to broadband at their homes and thus unable to do homework online. Our students are disadvantaged because they lack connectivity at home.

This is why I am excited that Lake Region Electric Cooperative, through its subsidiary Lake Region Technology & Communications, LLC ("Lake Region") has started building a fiber network to bring broadband to its member owners in Cherokee County, Oklahoma, an area which includes the households of nearly all of our students.

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.

Sincerely,



Diana Garnatz  
Superintendent