



Empowering Education Through Technology

September 28, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45**

Dear Chairman Pai:

On behalf of CSM, I am writing to express our full and unequivocal support for you to appoint Julie Tritt Schell to USAC's Board of Directors, representing school applicants.

The Commission will not find a more tireless E-rate advocate for schools – all schools -- than Ms. Schell. Ms. Schell serves as the PA State E-rate Coordinator, but she is unique in this role because she focuses not only on Pennsylvania applicants' E-rate issues, but she regularly represents the voices of applicants in all states, presenting them to USAC and FCC officials in a thoughtful, solution-minded manner. As the E-rate Program has undergone tectonic, positive changes, she has been instrumental in bridging the gap between theory and practice, making the transition much smoother for the applicants affected in the field. As we approach another new era of changes to the program, school applicants desperately need a representative on the board who can speak for them based on real world experiences and provide real time feedback regarding what's happening in the field, day to day.

Having served previously on the USAC board, Ms. Schell understands the larger, administrative issues that surround not only the E-rate program, but also the other universal service programs as well. Her understanding of the program and all of its nuances from every level is surpassed only by her passion for ensuring its continued success.

Although the E-rate program has greatly matured over the last few years and evolved into a broadband-focused, data-centered initiative, we are all aware that challenges remain. We strongly urge the Commission to appoint Julie Tritt Schell to the USAC Board so she can work to address these challenges, and bring a practical perspective to the Board's business decisions.

We proudly support Julie Tritt-Schell's nomination to USAC's Board of Directors. Her widespread respect in the applicant community and unmatched E-rate expertise are the exact qualities we need, and we believe the Commission would want, representing our nation's schools and their specific needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly M. Friends", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kimberly M. Friends
Vice-President, E-Rate Compliance