Fulton County Public Library District

FULTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
312 MAIN STREET
FULTON, KENTUCKY 42041

HICKMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY
902 MOSCOW AVENUE
HICKMAN, KENTUCKY 42050

November 4, 2017

In the Matter of:

Wireline Competition Bureau
Seeking Comments on E-rate Category Two

WC Docket No. 13-184

We are pleased to provide reply comments on the impact of having access to secure and sufficient funding for our library WiFi and internal connections. We echo the call to the FCC of more than 140 libraries to ensure a fully funded and stable E-rate program, including maintaining the category two (C2) budget system for libraries. Comments submitted to the FCC came from small rural libraries, suburban libraries, and large urban libraries, all of which indicate they depend on the E-rate program to provide internet access as a core community service.
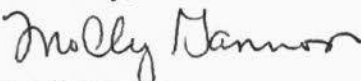
In communities across the country, including our small county, people turn to the library to use our WiFi on their tablets, laptops, and other devices. Library users are downloading job applications, applying for financial aid, seeking health information, and communicating with family - all dependent on a strong WiFi signal. Increasingly, libraries also provide services that depend on WiFi, like coding clubs for K12 youth. Libraries everywhere know WiFi throughout the library is not a "nice to have" - it's a core community service.

With the commitment of the FCC to ensure a library budget of $2.30 ($5.00 for a selected category of larger urban and suburban libraries) per square foot, libraries can finally upgrade outdated equipment or plan for new construction. They have confidence that desperately needed support will be there.

It is clear for library comments filed, that the FCC should maintain secure funding through the full five-year budget period as adopted during the 2014 Modernization. Our communities depend on that funding.

Thank you for considering the importance of this funding for public libraries.

Sincerely,

Molly Gannon
Director
Fulton County Public Library District