

# HERMAN & WHITEAKER, LLC

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November 20, 2018

## VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Notice of Ex Parte; Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries,**  
WC Docket No. 13-184

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Thursday, November 15, 2018, Jennifer Otwell, General Manager of Totelcom Communications, LLC, Steven Steele, General Manager of Peoples Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Jamey Wigley, General Manager of Central Texas Telephone Cooperative, Inc., and their counsel, Clare Liedquist and the undersigned with Herman & Whiteaker, LLC, met with Bryan Boyle, Gabriela Gross, Christian Hoefly, Ryan Palmer (by telephone) and D'wana Terry of the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC" or "Commission") Wireline Competition Bureau. During the meeting, Mr. Wigley and Ms. Otwell expressed concerns that recently approved universal service fund ("USF") projects in the E-Rate program will result in fiber overbuild, a potential waste to the USF. Mr. Steele explained that a recent report from the Texas Governor's office shows that 97% of schools are already connected to fiber. The real problem the majority of schools are facing now, explained Mr. Steele, is not fiber connection.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's Rules, we are filing this letter electronically in the above-captioned docket. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. L. Herman, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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Donald L. Herman, Jr.  
Clare C. Liedquist  
*Counsel to Central Texas Telephone  
Cooperative, Inc., Peoples Telephone  
Cooperative, Inc. and Totelcom  
Communications, LLC*