

JIM COOPER
5TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM

WEB SITE: www.cooper.house.gov

435

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

PLEASE MAIL TO NASHVILLE OFFICE:

605 CHURCH STREET
NASHVILLE, TN 37219-2314
(615) 736-5295
FAX: (615) 736-7479

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
(202) 225-4311
FAX: (202) 226-1035

June 1, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

It has come to my attention that the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) has denied more than \$3.6 million in 2016 funding to the Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS). MNPS is located in my congressional district and serves approximately 88,000 students. This loss of funding hurts their education.

USAC cited its "red light rule" in denying the funding after it was discovered MNPS had not paid a \$1,500 debt to the Universal Service Fund. This \$1,500 debt was due to a clerical error in 2012 – a newly-eligible high school was omitted from a form. MNPS first learned of the outstanding debt when funds were denied in January 2017. MNPS repaid the debt within two weeks. MNPS's appeal to USAC was denied in August 2017. MNPS subsequently appealed the decision to the FCC on October 20, 2017 – more than seven months ago. No decision has been made. This is inexcusable.

Students and teachers need decisions, not delays. Students should also be given the best chance to succeed. Why should students be punished for a clerical error that has been fixed? No one likes red tape getting in the way of America's success; this is government bureaucracy at its worst.

The FCC needs to resolve this issue by immediately ruling on MNPS's appeal. If a ruling has not been made and announced to MNPS by the receipt of this letter, please provide me with the following information within three business days:

- the current status of MNPS's appeal;
- a detailed explanation for the delayed decision past the 90-day deadline; and
- the expected dates when the FCC will make its ruling; and inform MNPS of its decision.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

cc: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael O'Reilly
Commissioner Brendan Carr
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
The Honorable David J. Redl
The Honorable Lamar Alexander
The Honorable Bob Corker

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July 9, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

I am still awaiting a response to my June 1 letter regarding the denial of more than \$3.6 million in 2016 funding to the Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) for the E-Rate program.

In my June 1 letter, I stated "the FCC needs to resolve this issue by immediately ruling on MNPS's appeal. If a ruling has not been made and announced to MNPS by the receipt of this letter, please provide me with the following information within three business days:

- the current status of the MNPS's appeal;
- a detailed explanation for the delayed decision past the 90-day deadline;
- the expected date when the FCC will make its ruling; and
- the expected date that the FCC will inform MNPS of its decision."

As of today's date, the appeal has neither been resolved, nor have I received any of the information I requested. These delays are inexcusable.

I am once again asking you to provide the requested information to me within three business days.

Sincerely,



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

cc: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael O'Reilly
Commissioner Brendan Carr
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
The Honorable David J. Redl
The Honorable Lamar Alexander
The Honorable Bob Corker

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July 27, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

On June 1, 2018 I wrote to you regarding the denial of more than \$3.6 million in 2016 funding to the Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) for the E-Rate program. I wrote to you again on July 9, 2018 as I had not received a response. In both letters, I stated that "the FCC needs to resolve this issue by immediately ruling on MNPS's appeal. If a ruling has not been made and announced to MNPS by the receipt of this letter, please provide me with the following information within three business days:

- the current status of the MNPS's appeal;
- a detailed explanation for the delayed decision past the 90-day deadline;
- the expected date when the FCC will make its ruling; and
- the expected date that the FCC will inform MNPS of its decision."

As of the date of this letter, the appeal has neither been resolved, nor have I received any of the information requested. MNPS appealed this decision more than eight months ago. There is no excuse.

I am again asking you to please provide the requested information within three business days. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

cc: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael O'Reilly
Commissioner Brendan Carr
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
The Honorable David J. Redl
The Honorable Lamar Alexander
The Honorable Bob Corker



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 21, 2018

The Honorable Jim Cooper
U.S. House of Representatives
1536 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

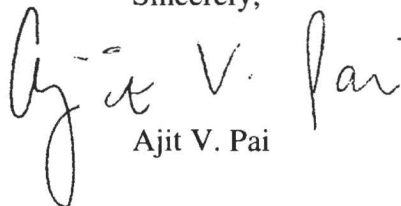
Dear Congressman Cooper:

Thank you for your letter regarding Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools' participation in the E-rate program. I understand that Metropolitan Nashville serves approximately 88,000 students in the Nashville area, and that the Universal Service Administrative Company has denied it E-Rate funding due to a clerical error. I agree with you that a loss of \$3.6 million in E-Rate funding is grossly disproportionate to the \$1,500 debt that Metropolitan Nashville owed (and has already repaid).

I have good news. Just this week, the Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau granted Metropolitan Nashville relief so that it can remain eligible for E-Rate funding despite this administrative snafu. I welcome this decision by the Bureau, as I hope you will as well.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai