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May 7, 1996

Mr. William F. Caton, Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

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Re: Before the Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKETED BY ORIGINAL

In the matter of)
Federal-State Joint Board) CC Docket No. 96-45
on Universal Service)

Re: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order Establishing Joint Board

REPLY COMMENTS:

Dear Secretary Caton,

I am a school librarian at Chico High School, Chico California, a school which has been designated as exemplary by the U.S. Department of Education, and also by the State of California. As a school librarian, I have been using the Internet with my students and teachers over the past six years. We primarily use Internet information resources that are abundantly available as supplements to our outdated book collections, for which there is little funding to increase as is desperately needed. We teachers also use e-mail to collaborate and plan, which are activities that are difficult to do in the normal work day.

I find Internet access indispensable, and so do most of our students and teachers, since the budget is just not available to keep up with purchases of books and magazines. If it were not for the provision of expensive Internet services by our school district, I fear that we would not be able to make use of them. Given the low priority of funding for education, technology and libraries in our state, I fear that these services will not be available much further into the future, without the provision of free network access to schools.

Therefore I urge that the FCC mandate free, high quality, broad bandwidth access for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,



Peter Milbury

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