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Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

In Matter Of	)	
	)	
Usage of the Public Switched Network by Information Service and Internet Access Providers	)	CC Docket No. 96-263
	)	

To: The Commission

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF INQUIRY

The Edgewood Senior High School Student Council, on behalf of the student body of this school numbering 685 students, does submit its response to this Notice of Inquiry. This response was prepared by the Internet Committee of this council. The members of this committee are Stephen Kellat, Committee Chairman, Joe Donatone, Michelle Falcione, Chad Colby, Kym Nicholas, K.D. Doyle, and Jacob Nolan. Assisting us with the proofreading of our work was senior Michael West and English teacher Mrs. Applebee.

Our response to this Notice of Inquiry shall deal with the issues of the necessity of new hardware being developed at the telephone companies' systems to cope with the heavy usage of circuits common to calls to Internet Service Providers, regulation hindering the development of new technologies for the Internet, possibilities of tariffs being imposed on Internet access domestically, and discriminating between the different services available on the Internet.

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Coping with loads presented by calls to ISPs

It is the opinion of this student body that new hardware

must be developed at the telephone companies to allow for greater reliability in access to Internet Service Providers. Considering how this system is implemented using common carrier systems, new hardware that can handle the stress of these calls should be developed. If such hardware is not developed, the Internet will not be able to cope with the present and future loads that the current access picture poses.

Regulations Hindering The Development of the Internet

In the course of human events it becomes necessary in the eye of legislators to control and regulate what seems unordered and chaotic. The technology surrounding the internet is one such issue. To regulate the Internet is to hinder the creative forces of hardware and software developers. Regulation reduces the flexibility needed to achieve goals similar to the revolutionary changes we have already seen. We doubt that this government believed in the beginning days of the network that technologies like Java, Shockwave, Cyber-shopping, virtual libraries and video conferencing would exist today. These, and other amazing technologies, would not have been possible without the vast freedom of the Internet.

Possibilities of access charges

New billing structures should not be implemented because

the flat rate fees charged per month by most providers are acceptable. Most Internet customers are connected to local internet providers in order to avoid the long distance calls. If a new surcharge by telephone companies was implemented, it would have the greatest effect on the people living in poorly developed rural areas. Most people in those areas are low income families and may be unable to afford the long distance charges. New rates would also cause some present customers to disconnect from the Internet because the price of long distance calling would become expensive.

Discriminating Between the Types of Service Provided

The student body at this time sees no compelling reason to discriminate between the different types of services available. This would cause unnecessary worries and hassles to this agency if it attempts to go forth with a rulemaking proceeding. At this time, this student body does not believe it to be in the public interest to discriminate between the different services on the Internet in any further proceedings.

Conclusion

At this time, the student body of Edgewood Senior High School does not believe regulation in any form of the Internet to be in the public interest. We strongly urge this agency not to adopt any regulations concerning rates charged by Internet Service Providers & telephone companies.

Currently several students pay for accounts at ISPs out of their own money. This student body is strongly against any form of regulation or censorship of the Internet. We do believe that this agency should mandate that telephone company hardware be upgraded to deal with the more stressful loads presented to telephone companies by calls to Internet Service Providers. In review, this filing primarily deals with questions posed in paragraphs 313 to 317 of the Access Reform Proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

Edgewood Senior High School Student Council
By Student Council Internet Committee
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