



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

PARISH & SCHOOL

April 14, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
APR 22 1997
Federal Communications Commission

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt,

I write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act last year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

Without discounts on internal wiring and Internet access, St. Mary's School would not be able to afford these services. I do not feel it is fair to deprive students in the Catholic schools the funds that would allow us to integrate technology into the curriculum. So often Catholic schools have been excluded from most local/state funded initiatives for the purchase of technology hardware and we are already deficit in this area.

My faculty, staff, and I have a five year technology plan for our school. We are very eager to move forward with the plan but because of insufficient funds, it is difficult to make our plan a reality.

I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. I also strongly urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of

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information to every school child and life-long learner in America.

Sincerely,

Sister Mary Cheryl Darr, S.N.D.

Sister Mary Cheryl Darr, S.N.D.
Principal

NEW CASTLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
420 Fern Street
New Castle, PA 16101-2640

Telephone: (412) 656-4771
Fax (412) 656-4786

Marie L. Pisano
Board Secretary-Business Manager

Joseph A. Martin, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 17, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Commissioner Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt: :

I am a Board Member from the New Castle Area School District in Pennsylvania and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

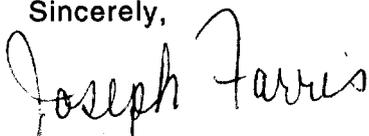
The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

With this discount, we would be able to purchase new adoptions of textbooks which have repeatedly been cut from our local budget. Western Pennsylvania has been extremely hard hit and our school has lost \$13,000,000 of tax base in the last ten years and we rank ninth in the Commonwealth for local tax effort.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Mr. Joseph Farris
Board Member

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Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

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NEW CASTLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

**420 Fern Street
New Castle, PA 16101-2640**

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**Telephone: (412) 656-4771
Fax (412) 656-4786**

**Marie L. Pisano
Board Secretary-Business Manager**

**Joseph A. Martin, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools**

April 17, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Commissioner Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No 96-45

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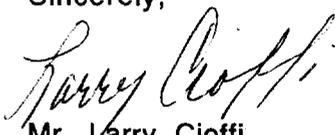
The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

With this discount, we would be able to purchase new adoptions of textbooks which have repeatedly been cut from our local budget. Western Pennsylvania has been extremely hard hit and our school has lost \$13,000,000 of tax base in the last ten years and we rank ninth in the Commonwealth for local tax effort.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Mr. Larry Cioffi
Board Member

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April 22, 1997

Homeland Park Elementary School
3519 Wilmont Street
Anderson, South Carolina 29624
(803) 260-5125

An Equal Opportunity Employer

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APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am the Principal of Homeland Park Elementary School in Anderson, South Carolina. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts and dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The funds planned for this effort will help provide service to our school and more importantly will bring services into the classrooms where my students can use it daily to increase learning opportunities. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital.

These discounts will enable our District to provide these connections within the classrooms. My school is located in a high poverty area. Approximately 85% of the students receive free or reduced-price lunches. Any assistance to help these children reach their full potential will be greatly appreciated. If we are to have an effective work force of tomorrow, we must make sure that the students of today are provided all opportunities. This plan will help make this a reality.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you and the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Sincerely,

ALLEN B. ADKINS, Ed.D.
Principal

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Homeland Park Elementary School
3519 Wilmont Street
Anderson, South Carolina 29624
(803) 260-5125

An Equal Opportunity Employer

FAX COVER SHEET

Fax No. (864) 375-2042

Date: April 22, 1997 Time: 1000 _____

Sent by: Dr. Allen B. Adkins _____

To: The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman _____

Company: Federal Communications Commission _____

Fax No.: 202-418-2801 _____

Number of Pages Including This Cover Sheet: 2__

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APR 15 1997

April 15, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20054

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APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt (State Public Utility Commissioner/Members of Congress):

I am writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for schools and libraries as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November. In particular, I support the recommendations made by EdLiNC, a Washington-based coalition of educational and library organizations.

The Recommended Rules ensure that all children, whether in public or non-public schools, have access to on-line resources that are critical to live, learn and work in our modern society.

Here at St. Paul/Our Lady of Vilna, a Catholic school in inner-city Chicago, our classrooms are outfitted with several Apple IIe computers, relics to be sure. In an age where privileged children have e-mail accounts and are familiar with spread sheets and word processing programs, we in inner city Catholic schools fiddle with 5" floppies and wheezing disc drives. Unforgiving budget cuts no doubt ensure that our collective feet will remain firmly planted in the computer ice age.

Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the clear intent of insuring that schools and libraries would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing telecommunication and non-telecommunication carriers to compete for the discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need to diverse technologies to serve the diverse urban and rural areas of the State.

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,
J. Zelwack

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Vacaville Unified School District

751 School Street • Vacaville, California 95688-3987

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(707) 448-1011

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Board Secretary

April 18, 1997

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APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Mr. Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, D. C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am writing to you in regard to the federal "E-RATE" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected School Board Member from the Vacaville Unified School District and I would like to express my strong support for this Program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996, and the Federal-State Joint Board Discount Plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the Country and, more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the Discount Program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC Commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the Discount Plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

William Hausler
Board of Education
Vacaville Unified School District

WH:lm

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MARIPOSA COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 8 Mariposa, California 95338 ■ (209) 742-0250 FAX (209) 966-4549

April 17, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

WILLIAM F. PETTUS
Superintendent of Schools

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket NO. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt,

I am a locally elected school board member from the Mariposa County Unified School District in California. Our district covers 1,455 square miles and has thirteen schools. Rural schools like ours have few dollars and no corporate support. Our businesses are Mom and Pop in ownership and we have no industry other than tourism. Our students have little or no access to libraries. We need your support of the E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan is the only way my students will have access to the internet and the ability to keep up with inner-city and urban students.

~~The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately needed by all students and overdue in rural areas. I beseech you to fully support the Joint Boards recommendations for our kids.~~

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly,

Bob Bartholomew
Board of Trustees and Education

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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CC96-45



SHOREWOOD-TROY LIBRARY

650 Deerwood Drive
Shorewood, IL 60435
815/725-1715

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April 15, 1997

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APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Honorable Reed Hundt - Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW - Room 844
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for libraries and schools as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published in November, 1996.

The Recommended Rules allow libraries and schools significant discounts for telecommunications and critical non-telecommunications services necessary to assure that all of our public libraries and schools are connected to the Internet and other on-line resources that are critical to live, learn and work in an increasingly information-driven world.

Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the clear intent of insuring that libraries and schools would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing significant discounts on telecommunications services, local wiring and Internet access, the Joint Board has accurately recognized the needs of poorer schools and libraries that cannot afford the internal wiring necessary to connect with the Internet. By allowing telecommunications companies and non-telco carriers to compete for the discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need for diverse technologies to serve the diverse urban and rural areas of the State.

We in Illinois are fortunate to have strong support for such a discount. On April 10, the Illinois House approved HB 707 (Telecom Bill) with a 115-0 vote, thus making public libraries and library systems eligible for the same discounted telecommunication rates afforded to other educational institutions included in the Public Utilities Act.

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We in Shorewood have strong support from the Shorewood Area Chamber of Commerce for Internet access. However, the monetary portion of the commitment is dependent upon the success of their annual 4-day festival, which in turn, is dependent upon the weather.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter for our libraries and schools -- and -- ultimately for us all, as a better educated community benefits everyone. Please do not hesitate to call if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary F. Thomas".

Mary F. Thomas,
Director
The Staff and Board of Trustees

MFT:sg

CC 96-45



San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools

601 North E Street • San Bernardino, CA 92410-3093 • (909) 387-4386 • FAX [909] 387=8950 or 387=4481

Barry Pulliam, Ed.D., Superintendent • (909) 387-4386
Administrative Services Division • (909) 387-3205
Business Services • (909) 387-4359
Curriculum/Instruction Division • (909) 387-3121
Information Systems • (909) 387-4466
Student Services Division • (909) 387-4417

April 17, 1997

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Mr. Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

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APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt,

On behalf of the San Bernardino Public Schools team, I am writing you to thank you and offer our full support of your efforts in ensuring all schools have affordable access to the Information Superhighway via the proposed "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount.

As you know, San Bernardino County is the largest geographical county in the country. With this size challenge, the issue of access for our students is a significant one. Out of our approximately 13,249 classrooms, 10% have Internet access. Obviously, the major reason for this current low access rate is the lack of funding. Our county alone would benefit by a projected \$60 Million share of discounts realized from the "E-Rate" proposal. These discounts would allow for re-distribution of operational budgets to provide for critical technology infrastructure and equipment. On average, 50% of the students in our county participate in the National School Lunch Program (NLSP) and would benefit from the FCC proposal. If we as a nation truly desire to continue with the philosophy of equal access to education for all, it sure should follow that there must be provisions for equal technology access for all.

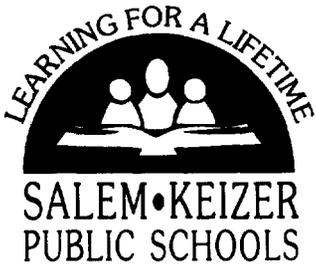
On the attached signature page, you will find that we as a county are in full support of your proposal. All district superintendents in the county have signed showing their support and encouragement of the proposal. I am sending you this under my signature, but please remember that I am only a facilitator of the wishes and requests of the districts in our county which serve a 340,000 K-12 student population.

Representing a Unified Strong Voice Of Support,

Barry Pulliam
Superintendent, San Bernardino County Schools

BP:TK:cs

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DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Neva Hutchinson, Chairperson • Bart McElroy, Vice Chairperson
David B. Bauer • Jeanean West Craig • Sharon Gray • Dan Saucy • Craig A. Smith
1309 Ferry Street SE • PO Box 12024 • Salem, Oregon 97309-0024
(503) 399-3001 • FAX: 399-5579

Homer Kearns, Superintendent

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 23, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-15

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am the school board chair for Salem-Keizer Public Schools in Salem, Oregon. I want to thank you for your support of funds for Internet access in schools.

The Telecommunications Act and Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools in our district will be able to enjoy the Internet's features, including distance learning. The over \$2 billion a year in the plan bring this technology directly into the classroom.

With the deep discounts your plan supports, we will be able to wire more computers in more schools faster, allowing for more opportunities for our students to be educated as the workforce of tomorrow.

Our district's mission says in part that each of our students will have "the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes" to be "a contributing citizen and productive worker in a changing and increasingly diverse world." I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries to help us with our mission and make Internet access a reality for today's students.

Sincerely,

Neva Hutchinson, Chairperson
Salem-Keizer Public Schools

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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CC 96-45



Fayette County Board of Education
(304) 574-1176

111 Fayette Avenue
Fayetteville, West Virginia
25840

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APR 22 1997

April 17, 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Division of Secretariat

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As Superintendent of Fayette County, West Virginia, Schools, I would like to ask your support of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for Schools and Libraries. This Act is critical to school systems, if we are to be able to provide the technology services needed in our schools.

Sincerely,

L. A. Coleman
Superintendent

LAC:jaa

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CC96-45



BUCKS COUNTY FREE LIBRARY and DISTRICT CENTER

150 SOUTH PINE STREET, DOYLESTOWN PA 18901
(215) 348-0332 FAX (215) 348-4760

MARILYN D. MOODY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EDWARD L. WHITTAKER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 16, 1997

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Reed Hundt, Chair
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

As the Library Director of a cooperative system of libraries, I would like to discuss the problems encountered in trying to network our telecommunication structure in order to provide the most service for the least cost.

Our county lies north of Philadelphia. It is 600 square miles with its maximum dimension ranging north to south. Our population is partly suburban, partly semi-rural with rapid development in areas which were farmland.

We occupy three calling zones so that we pay quite a lot for toll charges. (We have an electronic network using telephone lines to connect our 18 public libraries.)

Our network handles our catalog so that users can see what each library owns; it facilitates through E-mail, interlibrary lending; it handles a limited number of reference products, so that smaller libraries have access to resources larger libraries take for granted. If we can afford it, our users will have access to full text periodical articles by using the Internet.

Our staff has been using the Internet to answer questions that would not have been possible before having it. This access will be extended to the public at some point in the future.

The proposal before the FCC to give discounted rates is not designed to help a community like ours although our needs for discounted rates are as great as libraries in an urban or rural area because of the distances encountered and pricing practices.

Most Boards of Trustees are unaccustomed to the open-endedness presented by telecommunication costs. As governments restrict access to public funding we are even more concerned because future costs are unpredictable. The E-rate as proposed may not assist us.

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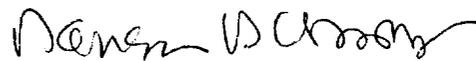
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER
Bucks County Library Center at Doylestown.

BRANCHES - BENSLEM, Bensalem Township • LOWER COUNTY, Levittown, Bristol Township • JAMES A. MICHENER, Quakertown Borough-Richland Township • PENNWOOD, Langhorne Borough • SAMUEL PIERCE, Perkasie Borough • YARDLEY-MAKEFIELD, Lower Makefield Township

Public libraries receive so little funding relative to the large number of people they serve. Based on our present experience, people see the library as a provider of this service.

Please help us by acting to assist all public libraries in receiving assistance accorded in the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marilyn D. Moody". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Marilyn D. Moody
Executive Director

cc: Board
Congressman Greenwood
Commissioners

CC 96-45

Mr. David Chavez
Technology Coordinator
Escandon Elementary
P.O. Drawer J
La Joya, Texas 78560
April 15, 1997

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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission

school will receive hardware, set-up and installation of the network in every classroom. In addition, there will be a monthly charge of \$350 for a port and \$260 for a T-1 line. The annual cost of these monthly items is \$7,320. Because the potential for learning from projects such as the Trans-Asia Global Learning Project and other similar projects is so great, Escandon Elementary is requesting a grant to cover the cost of hardware, installation, and monthly service costs for one year. The total amount of the grant would be \$18,665. As of now, Escandon Elementary is set-up for networking.

As the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal service provision I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. All schools and libraries need long-term discounts that are truly affordable, flexible and offer choice in determining which services best meet each communities needs. It is imperative that these services are linked directly into the classroom, lab and work station.

I urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and lifelong learner in America.

Please convey these recommendations to the FCC and the Federal-State Joint Board. Thank you for your attention to this matter of considerable importance to all schools, classrooms, and libraries.

Sincerely,

David Chavez

David Chavez
Technology Coordinator

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CC 96-45



GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Groton, Connecticut
Administration Offices

1300 Flanders Road • P.O. Box K, Groton, Connecticut 06340 • (860)572-2100 • FAX (860)572-2107

April 16, 1997

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APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am a superintendent of schools in a district that is making a genuine effort to make technology an integral part of teaching and learning. Every classroom is cabled to transmit voice, data and video. Students and teachers have direct access to the Internet from their classrooms, and we administered our State's only educational access channel. I am writing because we need your help to continue this effort in a cost-effective manner.

Please support the Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan for schools. Our school board has given our technology initiative a high priority - but the cost of telecommunications is considerable, and in some cases prohibitive, to school districts. This discount plan will help public schools throughout the country to deliver a contemporary education to our children. If there is any arena where deep discounts are warranted by federal action, it is in the education of children. Please help us to keep this promise.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,


George M. Reilly, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

C: Board of Education

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CC96-45

**USD 251
North Lyon County**

Superintendent
Steven Mollach

Clerk
Mary Y. Oliver

Treasurer
Judith Mundy

**Box 527
Americus, Kansas 66835
Phone: 316-443-5116
Fax: 316-443-5659**

Board of Education
Gene Graber, President
Joe Fehr, Vice-President
Sherry Andersen
Kitty Frank
Ronda Hooper
Jerry Retallick
Roger Wells

"Where Learning is a Journey, Not a Race"

April 16, 1997

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

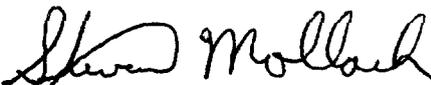
My name is Steven Mollach and I am Superintendent of Schools of Unified School District #251 North Lyon County, Americus, Kansas. I realize in the very near future you will be reviewing and eventually voting on recommendations as they relate to the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Recently our Board of Education made a commitment of \$110,000. for an Interactive Distance Learning Lab for our schools. Yesterday, I reviewed the potential course offerings which included Calculus, Japanese, College Composition I and II, Economics, College Algebra, College Speech and we will be able to access the Astrophysical Observatory at Greenbush. We are extremely proud of this commitment but I am compelled to ask for your assistance so we can complete our vision for a small rural school system.

Our district needs the deep discounts the 1996 Act provides. While not depending on the discounts, the thought they could be available certainly entered into our pre-commitment discussions. Our line cost will be \$18,000. per year which, as I understand, is considered above the average cost in Kansas. Yes, we will find a way to fund the cost, but it only means another budget will suffer.

The need is here and the time is now for you to help our students reach their fullest potential. I urge you to support the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,



Steven Mollach
Superintendent of Schools

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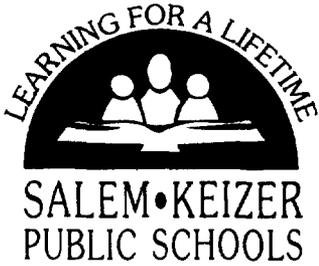
DISTRICT ATTENDANCE CENTERS

ADMIRE ELEMENTARY
Bill Stattelmann, Principal
100 East 3rd
Admire, Kansas 66830
316-528-3431

AMERICUS ELEMENTARY
Keith Entress, Principal
Box 497
Americus, Kansas 66835
316-443-5165

NORTHERN HEIGHTS HIGH
Don Duncan, Principal
1208 Road 345
Allen, Kansas 66833
316-528-3521

READING ELEMENTARY
Brad Butler, Principal
Box 38
Reading, Kansas 66868
316-699-3827



HOMER H. KEARNS, Superintendent
1309 Ferry Street SE • PO Box 12024 • Salem, Oregon 97309-0024

(503) 399-3001 • FAX: (503) 399-5579

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April 23, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am the Superintendent of Salem-Keizer Public Schools in Salem, Oregon. I want to thank you for your support of funds for school access to the Internet.

One of our district's eight student learning goals is to exhibit technological literacy, and the Telecommunications Act and Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools in our district will be able to enjoy the Internet's features, including distance learning.

We are currently in the process of wiring all of our schools, from elementary to high school classrooms. The approximately \$2 billion a year in the plan will help us to wire more computers in more schools faster, allowing more opportunities for our students to be educated as the workforce of tomorrow.

As the Internet becomes more and more a part of everyday use, it will be more important than ever to incorporate the technology in all classes. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Homer H. Kearns
Superintendent

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CHIPPEWA VALLEY SCHOOLS

CC 96-45

**MOHAWK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
48101 Romeo Plank Road**

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED Macomb, Michigan 48044

**Kenneth Madeleine - Principal
(810) 228-5660 - Office
(810) 412-8839 - Fax**

April 14, 1997

Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Consumer

Dear Mr. Hundt;

I am an elementary principal from the Chippewa Valley Public School District in a suburb of Detroit, Michigan, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunication Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where our students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow for our nation.

Our students and schools need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Kenneth Madeleine

Kenneth Madeleine
Principal

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Antelope Elementary School

1810 South Main St.
Clearfield, Utah 84015
Telephone: 801-774-7484

Ross G. Quist
Principal

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 2, 1997

RECEIVED

APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C., 20054

Dear Chairman Hundt,

As public school teachers, we write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act--through its Universal Service Fund provisions--mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

Educators know that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's children. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the FCC a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

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We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Thank You,

Undersigned Faculty and Staff Members

Antelope Elem.
(Name of school)

Davis County School District, Utah

Dorothy Moore
Jenni Howard
Art Larson
Lonnita Walker
Valerie Patton
Lynda Haggard
Sharna Miller
Karen Donahue
Lidia Martinson
Kathy Thorne
Niki Ogawa
Lisa Richards
Mary Ann Humphrey
Jill Fleming
John Paul

Judy Henderson
Lisa David
Monica Armitage
Robin Butler
Julie Hammer
Dore S Cragun
Jonna Sherman
Wendy Armstrong
Yonna Stinson
Debbie Smith
Lucinda MacQueen
Lorain A. Kivi
Judy Moffett
Susan Sparks

Leo J. Muir Elementary School
2275 S. Davis Blvd.
Bountiful, Utah 84010

CC 96-45

Ofelia G. Wade, Principal

(801) 299-2010

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April 2, 1997

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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C., 20054

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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Thank You,

Undersigned Faculty and Staff Members

Leo J. Muir Elementary
(Name of school)

Davis County School District, Utah

Suzanne Tanner
Sharon Langston

Sherry Kulse
Kathleen Swenson
Koranne DeFurange
Dorothea M. Entey
Maradene B. Heap
Marcia Murdock

Lynn Johnson-Ganett
Angela Edwards
Michele Page
Marcy Bradshaw

St. Devereaux
Kathleen Terry
Janet Eggen
Jillie Bant

Valery Burnett
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