

**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**

April 17, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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

RECEIVED

APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of General Counsel

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. Thomas DiMuccio  
Vice-President

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE \_\_\_\_\_

0

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

from the desk of Sharon Stys

Trustee, South Whittier School District  
9400 Amsdell Avenue, Whittier, CA 90605  
Phone (310) 945-1055 Fax (310) 945-3324  
Email: charon19@mail.idt.net

April 17, 1997

RECEIVED

APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

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 writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected school board member from the South Whittier 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

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
List ABCDE

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,

*Sharon Stys*

**Oakland Schools**

2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford, Michigan 48328-2735 • Phone (810) 858-2121 • Fax (810) 858-1881

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 14, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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 superintendent of Oakland Schools, a regional education service agency which serves 28 public school districts and 186,759 students in Oakland County, Michigan. One of the major issues among school superintendents, school boards and other educators in Oakland County and throughout Michigan is that of affordable access to our nation's information infrastructure.

In Oakland County we would continue our work as a regional consortium to bring information access to approximately 10,000 classrooms. To accomplish our goal, we need reduced rates for dialtone and high speed data lines but more importantly, we need affordable means of on-premise equipment and networking for all of our school buildings.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts 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.

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 to schools

Thank you.

Sincerely,

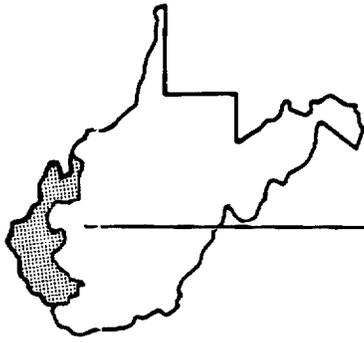
James Redmond, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

RECEIVED

APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of SecretaryNo. of Copies rec'd 1  
List ABCDE

CC96-45



# Regional Education Service Agency, II

2001 McCoy Road, Huntington, WV 25701  
Telephone: (304) 529-6205 Fax: (304) 529-6209

Ted L. Triplett, Executive Director

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 16, 1997

RECEIVED

APR 22 1997

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Although West Virginia has less financial resources than most other states, the State Board of Education, the West Virginia Legislature, county boards of education, regional educational service agencies, and schools have made extraordinary efforts to keep our schools abreast of the rest of the nation in educational technology. In order for us to continue to improve opportunities for our children, it is imperative that the Federal Communications Commission approve the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan for universal service for schools.

It is particularly important that schools and school districts receive the proposed deep discounts for internal classroom wiring and connections. Without proper internal wiring, the needed services will not get to the classroom where they will be most effective. It is also important that local control of telecommunication plans be included in the final guidelines since this will provide schools an opportunity to develop plans which will best meet the unique needs of individual schools.

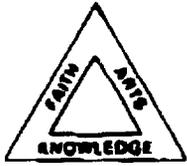
Thank you for your consideration of these requests. Students and teachers of southwestern West Virginia are looking forward to quickly taking advantage of the quality educational experiences which will be made possible by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the FCC regulations which will soon be approved.

Sincerely,

Ted L. Triplett  
Executive Director  
RESA II

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
List ABCDE

TLT/rmb



# holy trinity episcopal day school

13106 ANNAPOLIS ROAD • BOWIE, MARYLAND 20720 • PHONE (301) 262-5355

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 18, 1997

RECEIVED

APR 22 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am Lois M. Nichols, Director of Technology at Holy Trinity Day School in Bowie, Maryland, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries 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 the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our school needs inexpensive access to the internet so that we may prepare our students for the future in an information rich society. They must have access to this information and be taught how to manage and use it correctly. 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 sand libraries.

Thank you.

Lois M. Nichols, Ph.D.  
Director of Technology

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE \_\_\_\_\_

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

APR 22 1997

April 18, 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairperson Reed:

I am the superintendent of a rural school district in North Dakota with a total student population of approximately 620 students K-12. I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools 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 work force of tomorrow.

The Harvey School District would use "e-rate" discounts in a variety of ways. Our first priority is to set up a fully multi-media, Internet connected lab at our elementary school with computers, at least one, in each classroom. E-rate discounts would allow us to use resources to purchase equipment such as routers and computers, purchase appropriate software and provide training for our staff to make effective use of the equipment and technology to make teaching and learning more effective. We would also use resources to convert our traditional libraries into fully functioning and "connected" media centers making information fully accessible to our students.

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.

Sincerely,

Robert V. Marthaller, Superintendent  
Harvey School District #38

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
List ABCDE

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



McCormick County School District  
821 North Mine Street  
McCormick, South Carolina 29835

Charles Parnell  
Superintendent

RECEIVED

APR 22 1997

April 21, 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of General Counsel

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a superintendent from your school district name, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts 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.

Our district has one of the lowest tax bases in the state. Therefore, sufficient funds are not available to meet technology needs. Our students will not be technology literate and our teachers will not have access to technology for instructional purposes, without sufficient assistance.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Charles Parnell  
Superintendent

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
List ABCDE

### McCormick County School District



821 North Mine Street  
McCormick, South Carolina 29835

Telc (864) 465-2387

FAX (864) 465-2883

**Date:** April 21, 1997

**Time:** 4:45

**FAX Number:** (202) 418-280

**Attention:** Chairman Reed Hundt

**From:** Mr. Charles Parnell

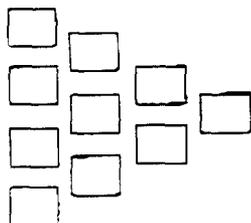
**Message:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of pages (including this cover sheet) 2

If there is any problem with this transmittal, please contact Wanda Anderson at (864) 465-2387. Thank you.

**"Progress Comes From Extra Effort"**

This facsimile message is confidential. It may contain information which is privileged or subject to other confidentiality requirements and exemptions from disclosure under applicable law. It is intended solely for the use of the individual named above. If you are not the intended recipient or the person responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby advised that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is prohibited. If you have received this facsimile message in error, please immediately notify the sender by telephone "collect" and return the original message to the sender by U.S. mail. Postage on returned FAX transmissions will be refunded. Thank you.



# GODWIN HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Middle School • 111 - 36th Street, S.E., Wyoming, Michigan 49548 • (616) 245-0561

RECEIVED

April 19, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED APR 22 1997

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

**RE: CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Chairperson Hundt:

I am the Director of Technology for the Godwin Heights Public Schools, 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 to bring services directly to the classroom where student learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce for tomorrow.

Our belief that technology supports learning is reflected in the passage of a bond in June of 1995 specifically for technology. The money generated as to our Technology Plan first established a fiber WAN between our 7 buildings. Part of that first phase also was the installment of a LAN in each school building allowing up to 7 computers in each classroom, as well as voice and video. The intent of this plan, developed by our community, was to bring technology to the classroom where the students are and where learning takes place. As a result we now have the ability to bring the internet to each classroom. Our T1 line to the local ISD brings the signal to the district. I am telling you this because I want you to know that we believe technology, for example the Internet, is important to the learning process. The resources available through the Internet expands learning opportunities.

The passage of the bond provided the funds to build a solid infrastructure for our future technology needs, but the ongoing costs are coming from the general fund. The passage of this discount program is extremely important to the continuance of our technology plan.

Our students will benefit by the adoption of this program. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service to schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ronald Postma  
Director of Technology

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABOVE

1



*Macomb District #185 Early Childhood Programs*  
*MacArthur School*  
*235 W. Grant, Macomb, IL 61455*  
*833-4273 or 833-1732*



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554

April 21, 1997

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 a principal and the director of special services from Macomb Unit School District #185 in Macomb, Illinois. I appreciate your dedication in ensuring that all school districts will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$4.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and 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.

District 185 is making every effort to integrate global communications opportunities into the instructional program. The scope of this program will be severely limited or perhaps even short-lived without this discount plan.

Deep discounts for telecommunications services to schools are needed this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sally Sallee  
 Principal and Director of Special Services  
 Macomb Unit School District #185

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
 List ABCDE



# Petersburg Public School

P.O. Box 240  
2nd and Widaman  
Petersburg, NE 68652-0240

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

(402) 386-5302  
FAX (402) 386-5464

'HOME OF THE PIRATES'

April 21, 1997

RECEIVED

APR 22 1997

- ADMINISTRATION
- Earl W. Fickenscher, Sup't.
- Mary Thieman, Prin.
- ADM. SECRETARY
- Mildred Lucifel
- FACULTY MEMBERS
- Flaine Beckman, 1 & 2
- Stacey Bedlan, 3 & 4
- Annette Borer, 5 & 6
- Lisa Carder, H.E./Bus./Comp
- Harry Cunningham, Couns./S.S.
- Carol Eischeid, Science
- Vivian Eucker, English, Drama
- Chris Grundmayer, Soc. Stu.
- Jeff Hofeldt, Math
- Mike Kennedy, Bus./Comp./P.E.
- Hecky Kerkman, Elementary
- Tom Meyer, Ind. Tech.
- Bernice Milburn, K & 4
- Patricia Nabor, Media/H.E.
- Michael Nickisch, Art
- Gail Robinson, SPED
- Kathy Scior, Title I
- William Trenhaile, Music
- SPED AIDE
- Karen Paulson
- SCHOOL BOARD
- Dan Thieman, Pres.
- Jerry Rude, V. Pres.
- Lynno Remmerfeld, Sec
- Jodie Borer, Treas.
- Loran Naber
- Bob Kittelson
- SEC. to PRIN.
- Claudelle Thieman
- MAINTENANCE
- Jerry Thieman
- Shirley Henn
- GREEN THUMB
- Jane Goetzinger
- FOOD PREP
- Fay Werner, Mgr.
- Virginia Foss
- Dorothy Clark
- Jolene Daniels
- Judy Benda
- TITLE I DRIVER
- Mary Zabka
- COACH
- Amy Evans

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

I am a teacher from the Petersburg Public School, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts 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 school, 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.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lisa Carder, Technology Coordinator

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE



**Fax**

**Transmittal**

**TO:** The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman

**Location/Company:** Washington, DC/  
Federal Communications Commission

**Phone#:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fax#:** (202) 418-2801

**FROM:** Mr. Gerald A. Mathias, Superintendent

**Hampshire County Board of Ed.**

**Phone#: 304-822-3528**

**Fax#: 304-822-5382**

**Pages including cover:** Two (2)

**Additional message:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Return to the Party:**

CC 96-45

# Hampshire County Board of Education

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS  
Gerald A. Mathias

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE/DATA  
Allen D. Hott



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Helen A. Heatwole, President  
Benjamin Elkins  
David Parker  
Brenda Pyles  
Cynthia Smith

46 S. High Street, Romney, West Virginia 26757  
Telephone: 304-822-3528  
Director of Finance: 304-822-3962

RECEIVED

April 17, 1997

APR 22 1997

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Although West Virginia has less financial resources than most other states, the State Board of Education, the West Virginia Legislature, the Hampshire County Board of Education, RESA VIII and our schools have made extraordinary efforts to keep our schools abreast of the rest of the nation in educational technology. In order for us to continue to improve opportunities for our children, it is imperative that the Federal Communications Commission approve the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan for universal service for schools.

It is particularly important that schools and school districts receive the proposed deep discounts for internal classroom wiring and connections. Without proper internal wiring, the needed services will not get to the classroom where they will be most effective. It is also important that no state mechanisms for evaluation of telecommunication plans be included in the final guidelines since this will undermine schools' opportunities to develop plans which will best meet the unique needs of individual schools.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. Students and teachers of eastern West Virginia are looking forward to quickly taking advantage of the quality educational experiences which will be made possible by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the FCC regulations which will soon be approved.

Yours truly,

*Gerald A. Mathias*  
Gerald A. Mathias  
Superintendent

GAM:jmf

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
List ABCDE



# HANFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

714 N. WHITE STREET • P.O. BOX G-1067 • HANFORD, CALIFORNIA 93232 • (209) 585-2265

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

APR 22 1997

14 April 1997

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 Superintendent of Hanford Elementary School District, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and educational agencies will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities for our students. The \$2.25 billion a year will help address the needs of our schools, and most importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom, into the hands of students. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing our youngsters for the future. We have just completed our plans to wire all nine of our schools and the district services facilities, so we are in an excellent position to take advantage of this proposal. It will assist us in completing our plans much sooner than we originally anticipated.

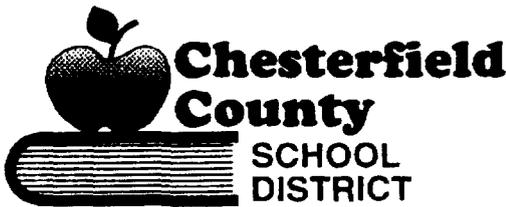
Schools need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year in order to provide Internet access to all of our students. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools. It is the only way we will be able to ensure equitable access to information.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Joe Simas, Superintendent

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE \_\_\_\_\_



401 West Boulevard Chesterfield, S.C. 29709

April 18, 1997

Dr. Renfro C. Manning, Superintendent

Telephone - (803) 623-2175  
Fax - (803) 623-3434

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

APR 22 1997

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 a superintendent from Chesterfield County School District, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts 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 work force of tomorrow.

In Chesterfield County, we now have twelve of our fifteen schools wired throughout and on line. Four other facilities are scheduled.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year to fully utilize the available potential.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Renfro C. Manning*  
Renfro C. Manning  
Superintendent

RCM:ph  
FCCInt1

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
List ABCDE

4-18-97

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671 # of pages > 1

To Chairman Hundt	From Renfro Manning
Co. FCC	Co. CCSD
Dept.	Phone # 803-623-2175

CC 96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



April 17, 1997

RECEIVED

APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As Superintendent of the School District of Newberry County, I commend you for your perseverance in making technology accessible in all school districts and educational agencies. The discount you are supporting would help our school district as we follow our District Strategic Plan for the Year 2000. In our Learner Standard 10, our goal is to provide the opportunity for students to use computers and other technology extensively throughout the school curriculum. Passing the Telecommunications Act will allow us the opportunity to connect to the Internet more swiftly without overburdening our technology budget.

At present, the state of South Carolina is setting aside \$40 million to support school technology. Of that, nearly \$15 million is directly going to provide telecommunications access to schools. In our district alone, nearly \$60 thousand of local funds will be spent making these connections. If a 60% discount were realized, the savings to the state would be \$9 million, and at our district level we could reduce our local operating budget by \$36 thousand. These reductions could be used to provide tax relief or they could be used in other areas of education that so desperately need funding.

I urge the FCC and the Joint Board to fully support the discount plan which will better prepare our students as they enter the work force or continue their educational endeavors.

Sincerely,

TEC Dowling  
District Superintendent

TECD:jwc

No. of Copies rec'd 1  
List ABCDE



DATE April 18, 1997

TO The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission

FAX # 1-202-418-2801

FROM SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEWBERRY COUNTY

TEC Dowling, District Superintendent  
~~SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEWBERRY COUNTY, S. C.~~

OUR FAX NUMBER: (803)321-2604

RE SUPPORT OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996  
FOR SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

# OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER LETTER 2

IF YOU HAVE DIFFICULTIES RECEIVING THIS INFORMATION, PLEASE  
CALL (803)321-2600.



Montana Education Association

1232 East Sixth Avenue • Helena, Montana 59601 • 406-442-4250  
1-800-398-0826 (Toll-free) • Fax: 406-443-5081

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 18, 1997

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

RECEIVED

APR 22 1997

RE: CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

On behalf of the 10,000 members of the Montana Education Association, I am writing in support of the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendation that would provide meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so every student can have affordable access to the world of information technology. The Universal Services Fund provision of the Telecommunication Act mandates the development of special discounts for all schools and libraries so they can secure the services at affordable prices.

Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with technology they will need to compete in today's and tomorrow's work force. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

The Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service made a unanimous recommendation for the implementation of the Universal Services Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our schools in Montana significant discounts on all services, with deep discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and most 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.

We cannot afford to have our schools become segregated into technology "haves" and the technology "have-nots." We need to prepare all of our children for the future.

I ask for your support of the Joint Board's recommendations. These provisions will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

Eric Feaver, President  
Montana Education Association

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE \_\_\_\_\_

0

Chairman Hunt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Room 844  
Washington DC, 20554

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

04/17/97

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Hello,

My name is Ralph Bach and I am the Computer Support Manager for Dearborn Schools in Dearborn, Michigan and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

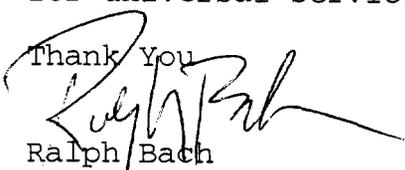
I hope that you will continue to support the findings of the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan to provide an "E-RATE" to schools. The \$2.25 billion will allow all schools to provide a 21st century education to all students.

The inclusion of internal classroom connections, (where the students are and learning goes on) for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

The money saved on infrastructure and line charges would enable us to start to upgrade our aging stock of Apple IIe computers and replace them with systems that can take advantage of the new technologies.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank You

  
Ralph Bach  
Computer Support Manager  
Dearborn Schools  
18700 Audette  
Dearborn, MI 48124

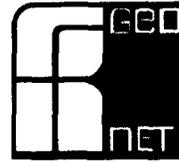
RECEIVED

APR 22 1997

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE \_\_\_\_\_

0

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



GeoNet Limited L.P.

April 18, 1997

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

APR 22 1997

Re: CC Docket # 96-45  
Federal/State Joint Board on Universal Service  
Recommended Decision

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As a follow up to our letter of April 8, 1997, GeoNet Limited, L.P. hereby submits comments on the matters of universal service to the Internet and access charges on Internet Service Providers (ISPs). We would like to express our appreciation for the opportunity to share GeoNet's experience related to this matter with the Commission.

GeoNet is a developer of enhanced telecommunications services and has developed a proposed solution to the problem of network congestion resulting from subscriber access to the Internet. We have had several meetings with Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs), ISPs, and manufacturers of telecommunications equipment. We believe that what we have learned from those meetings bears directly upon the the matters currently being considered in Docket 96-45.

First, there is the matter of universal access to the Internet. In the discussions with the ILECs, we were told that the ILECs plan to implement overlay data networks for Internet calls and that the subscriber calls would be diverted by the local switch to those overlay networks. It is GeoNet's understanding, resulting from GeoNet's meetings with the ILECs, that these new overlay networks would be implemented first in the metropolitan areas and later in the remaining areas. Clearly, this would result in a period where a superior class of service would exist for metropolitan areas compared to the remainder of the country. The track record of the ILECs in implementing ISDN and AIN is evidence that this period could be a decade or more.

Second, there is the matter of access charges which the ILECs have requested to be imposed on ISPs. GeoNet believes that the capital expenses for the overlay data networks which are being planned by the ILECs are not necessary to solve the congestion problem. The solution developed by GeoNet is evidence of that fact. Therefore, those capital expenses should not be used as part of the justification for ISP access charges.

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ /  
List ABCDE \_\_\_\_\_

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt  
April 17, 1997  
Page 2

---

We thank you for the opportunity to share our experience on these matters with the commission.

Respectfully,  
for GeoNet Limited, L.P.



Don Berteau  
Vice President, GeoSync Corporation  
General Partner, GeoNet Limited, L.P.

cc: Regina M. Keeney, Chief  
Common Carrier Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Michael Nelson  
Office of Policy Planning, Common Carrier Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission

William Kennard  
General Counsel  
Federal Communications Commission

Catherine J. K. Sandoval, Director  
Office of Communications Business Opportunities  
Federal Communications Commission

Alan Tresemer  
Chairman  
GeoSync Corporation

Thomas E. Gage  
Chairman  
Marconi Pacific, LLC  
Suite 540  
7910 Woodmont Avenue  
Bethesda, MD 20815

**LCI International**® EX PARTE OR LATE FILED  
**Worldwide Telecommunications**

CC 96-45

H. Brian Thompson  
Chairman of the Board  
Chief Executive Officer

Chairman Reed Hundt  
Commissioner James H. Quello  
Commissioner Rachelle Chong  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

April 21, 1997

RECEIVED  
APR 22 1997  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

On April 16, 1997, the Coalition for Access and Universal Service Reform set forth a proposal to resolve the current impasse surrounding access and universal service reform.

Today, long distance companies pay access charges that are exorbitantly above cost, as well as supporting universal service by way of implicit subsidies, in direct contradiction of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. LCI International believes the proposal set forth by the Coalition balances the concerns of consumers and businesses by gradually replacing today's excessive access charges with access charges based on forward looking costs -- costs that are reflective of a competitive market. The plan also proposes to recover universal service support on an explicit and competitively neutral basis, as required by law.

LCI supports the great majority of the Coalition's proposal, including:

- **Reinitialization of interstate access rates to yield a return of 11.25%.**
- **Increasing the productivity adjustment to 7.5%.**
- **Reducing the transport interconnection charge to 20% of the current level.**
- **Reducing access charges to TELRIC.**
- **Reducing terminating access charges more quickly than originating access charges.**

There are various areas in which LCI believes the proposal can be improved:

- **LCI believes it is reasonable to ask all parties, including consumers, to pay a fair and reasonable fee to support the wiring of schools and libraries (similar to the AT&T/Bell Atlantic/NYNEX proposal).**
- **LCI believes that there is no question that the competitive nature of the long-distance market will ensure that access reductions find their way into market based prices.**
- **LCI believes that all non-traffic sensitive costs should be recovered on a per line basis, not a minutes-of-use basis.**
- **LCI urges the FCC to adopt the existing interim transport rate structure as the permanent structure, so as not to discriminate against smaller carriers.**

LCI also believes the Commission should strongly reaffirm its support for the "Network Platform" required in its August 1, 1996 First Report & Order, CC Docket 96-98, Secs. 328-365, and state clearly that access charges can be avoided once the platform is both operationally available and economically feasible for competitors to use. Implementation of the platform should be a pre-requisite for Sec. 271 entry.

0

April 21, 1997  
Page 2

LCI strongly encourages the FCC to objectively review the proposal set forth by the Coalition for Access and Universal Service Reform and that any proposal adopted by the Commission must include, as lead proposals in the industry include, a significant long-term reduction in access charges by bringing them to TELRIC.

Sincerely,



H. Brian Thompson  
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer



# DOVER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION/BUSINESS OFFICE • SCHOOL LANE • DOVER • PENNSYLVANIA 17315  
(717) 292-3671 FAX (717) 292-9659



**L. ROBERT HALLMAN**  
Assistant Superintendent

**DR. GEORGE W. SEVERNS, JR.**  
Superintendent

**DENISE L. RUSSELL**  
Business Manager

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 17, 1997

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

RECEIVED

APR 22 1997

Federal Communications Commission

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am the Business Manager of the Dover Area School District, Dover, 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.

As our student enrollment expands in our community, we are faced with the difficult task of meeting tomorrow's needs with today's cash. We are a rural bedroom community, that borders a very industrial area. Our local support is residence property taxes. We have developed a financial/strategic plan that incorporates technology for uses such as distance learning, developing kiosks for use by residents, year round use of facilities exploration, and a commitment to lifelong learning.

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 yours,

Denise L. Russell  
Business Manager

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List ABCDE \_\_\_\_\_