



**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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Bob Rowe, Commissioner  
District 5

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED RECEIVED

April 18, 1997

APR 24 1997

Hon. Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, NW  
Washington DC 20554

Re: Ex parte comments in CC. Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

These ex parte comments are submitted only for myself. I do not write on behalf of the Montana Public Service Commission. These comments briefly address the substance of key decisions before the Federal Communications Commission. They also address the procedure for making future decisions, emphasizing the role of the Federal-State Joint Boards as the focus for federal-state cooperation.

Substantively, all actions should be taken in a manner which both promotes competition and protects customers. The FCC should shape the transition to competition so that consumers will be able to benefit from competition and are not adversely affected by changes occurring as a result of the 1996 Act.

Procedurally, the Universal Service and Separations Joint Boards are the primary methods for continued federal and state cooperation on Telecommunications Act implementation, supplemented by other formal and informal means. These two positions underlie all of the following statements.

- A. Section 254(a)(2) requires the Commission to complete a proceeding implementing the Universal Service Joint Board recommendations by May 8, 1997, which proceeding includes a definition of services supported and a specific timetable for implementation, and further requires the FCC to complete implementation proceedings on future universal service Joint Board recommendations within one year. The FCC should establish a specific implementation plan to move the telephone industry to the world of competition envisioned by the 1996 Telecommunications Act. The implementation plan should:

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"AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER"



**Hon Reed Hundt**

**April 18, 1992**

**Page 2**

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1. Promptly implement those actions which are required or necessary, and clearly set out a schedule for addressing and resolving any items not finalized.
  2. Address the relationship between universal service and other topics, including access reform, separations, and examining treatment of historic costs.
  3. Determine a basis for measuring large company costs, and specifically address large high cost study areas, consistent with 47 U.S.C. 254(b)(5), which requires that those in rural, insular, and high cost areas have access to telecommunications and information services at rates that are reasonably comparable to rates charged for similar services in urban areas.
  4. Protect customers from excessive rate increases.
  5. Provide industry participants sufficient information to continue their own business plans.
- B. Responsibility for creating, sizing and defining sources of funding for a permanent high cost support mechanism is shared jointly by the FCC and state commissions.
1. Each of the proxy models filed in the proceeding has flaws that prevent its use as part of the mechanism for defining and sizing universal service high cost support. State and federal regulators should work together to craft a mechanism for defining and sizing universal service high cost support that meets the goals of Section 254.
  2. Specifically, the Federal-State Joint Board should be reconvened to develop an appropriate proxy model or other costing methods; monitor subscribership and other issues concerning low income customers; consider effects on service quality; and other matters as may be necessary.
- C. The FCC should maintain support for small and rural incumbent LECs and their customers during this transition period, as outlined in the State Joint Board Members' Report on the Use of Proxy Models (March 26, 1997).
- D. The FCC should implement a program for schools and libraries generally consistent with the Joint Board's recommendation, with any appropriate modifications based upon comments received.

**Hon Reed Hundt**

**April 18, 1992**

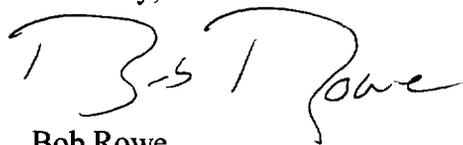
**Page 3**

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- E. The FCC should implement a low income program, as outlined in the Report of the State Joint Board Members on Low-Income Services (March 24, 1997).
- F. Federal and state regulators should coordinate universal service implementation and other actions to ensure appropriate cost recovery and avoid over-recovery of costs.
- G. End-user surcharges are generally not a desirable way to recover costs, as stated in the State Joint Board Members' Report on Universal Service - Comments on Recovery Mechanism for Universal Service Contributions (April 8, 1997).
- H. Universal service and access reform are two of several closely-related topics. To the extent the two proceedings are successfully coordinated, short-term pressure on the High Cost Fund may be reduced. Both subjects must be addressed systematically over the longer-term.

I am aware of and appreciate your efforts to inform and work with the Congress, state public utility commissions, industry and consumer groups. I appreciate the FCC's hard work in this important area. I look forward to working with you and the FCC on these and other matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Rowe". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Bob Rowe



STATE OF MAINE  
 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
 18 STATE HOUSE STATION  
 AUGUSTA, MAINE  
 04333-0018

THOMAS L. WELCH  
 CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM M. NUGENT  
 HEATHER F. HUNT  
 COMMISSIONERS

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 22, 1997

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APR 24 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
 Office of Secretary

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

Re: Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We write to express our views concerning several of the issues facing the FCC as you approach May 8.

We appreciate your recognition of the challenges that we face as a rural state that receives a disproportionately small share of current Universal Service funds. We agree with your stated view that the FCC should use caution in adopting any single approach or model that might, because of its distorting effects on the market, render genuine progress difficult or impossible. We also support a measured and orderly approach to implementing the mandate given to the FCC, to avoid allowing the inherent tension in the Act between its goal of promoting competition and its goal of enhancing universal service to frustrate the achievement of both. Nevertheless, we believe that maintaining the current system of support for rural areas for an extended period would frustrate Maine's ability to fulfill the requirements of the Act, especially those contained in Section 254(b) relating to reasonably comparable rates.

Maine and other rural states, in separate ex parte submissions, detail the scope of our concerns and suggest an interim approach that could be implemented prior to the final

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resolution of the proxy model issues.<sup>1</sup> In particular, the 200,000 line threshold for the full measure of High Cost Fund support in the existing scheme is a barrier to reasonably comparable rates that could be removed, as a near-term interim measure, without disturbing the orderly transition to competition or access charge reform.

Beyond these particular concerns, we have articulated below certain broad principles for substance and process that, in our view, should guide the FCC's deliberations:

- To the extent possible, rates should be designed so that non-traffic sensitive costs are not recovered through usage-sensitive charges.
- The long-term resolution of Universal Service and High Cost Fund issues - including size, funding, and distribution - should be developed in close cooperation between the states and the FCC, with continuing use of the Universal Service Joint Board.
- As the Universal Service Joint Board recommended, federal funding should be sufficient to ensure that telecommunications services, including inside wire and access to the internet, are made available to schools and libraries at discounted rates.
- The transition to a competitive market should be accomplished, to the extent possible, without creating adverse rate impacts on residential consumers.

While we are writing as individual commissioners, and not on behalf of the Maine Public Utilities Commission per se<sup>2</sup>, we

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<sup>1</sup>It seems clear to us that significant additional work needs to be done before any of the various proposed proxy models could be relied upon. Indeed, it may be the case that, while the same economic principles should guide all our collective efforts, the specific model ultimately chosen for High Cost Fund calculations (which, in essence, attempt to smooth differences among geographic regions) may not be identical to the model needed for other purposes (e.g. evaluating unbundled rate element prices). In any case, the Universal Service Joint Board is an appropriate forum for further work on these models.

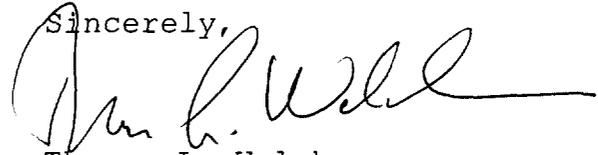
<sup>2</sup>Nor is Chairman Welch writing in his capacity as a member of the Separations Joint Board.

Ltr. Reed Hundt, Chairman  
April 16, 1997  
Page 3

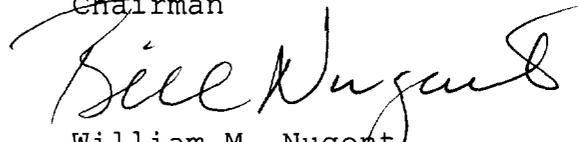
believe that the principles we have outlined above will, to the extent they guide the FCC's decision on May 8, help keep the move to effective competition required by the 1996 TelAct on track.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,



Thomas L. Welch  
Chairman



William M. Nugent  
Commissioner



Heather F. Hunt  
Commissioner

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The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong  
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**Sheryl Todd (disk& 1copy)**

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**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

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APR 24 1997

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

Federal Communications Commission

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,



Mrs. Karen Humphrey  
President

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**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

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APR 24 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 the Assistant Superintendent 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.

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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. Nick DeRosa  
Assistant Superintendent

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# Lincoln County Schools

SUPERINTENDENT  
R. P. Powell  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT  
Donna Martin

CC96-45

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April 17, 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, 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,

R.P. Powell  
Superintendent of Schools

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

April 15, 1997

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

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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,



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**NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOLS**

Lawrence E. Bozzomo, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
200 Hillvue Lane  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5391

(412) 366-2100

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APR 24 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C.

April 17, 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

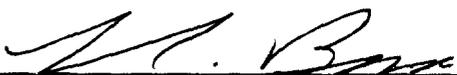
Dear Commissioner Hundt:

On May 8, 1997 when you vote on the FCC Federal State Joint Boards recommendation to provide significant discounts for all telecommunications services including connections within each classroom, you will have the opportunity to guarantee that all students have an equal opportunity to benefit from our nation's technological advancements. This will prove to be a major step in the efforts to prepare students for their future in which 60% of the jobs will require computer skills.

As a school superintendent, I can assure you that the proposed discounts would provide a major thrust to our efforts to integrate technology into the curriculum. We are committed to providing our students with the computer skills that business demands and that our work force will need to maintain our competitiveness in a global economy.

I encourage you to support the plan to provide discounts to schools for all telecommunications services including internal connections. This action will open the door of opportunity for every student in our country and help to prepare our work force of the future.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lawrence E. Bozzomo, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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*Plum Borough School District*  
200 SCHOOL ROAD, PLUM, PENNSYLVANIA 15239  
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

DR. FRANK C. PRAZENICA, JR.  
Assistant Superintendent

DR. GEORGE E. COOKE  
Superintendent  
795-0100  
Fax: 795-9115

EDWIN T. NEFF  
Director of Personnel

LORETTA P. McCLINTOCK  
Director of Reading Services

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MARIE MITALY  
School Psychologist

APR 24 1997  
April 17, 1997  
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Federal Commission

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

FE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

On May 8, 1997, when you vote on the FCC Federal State Joint Boards recommendation to provide significant discounts for all telecommunications services including connections within each classroom, you will have the opportunity to guarantee that all students have an equal opportunity to benefit from our nations technological advancements. This will prove to be a major step in the efforts to prepare students for their future in which 60% of the jobs will require computer skills.

As a school superintendent, I can assure you that the proposed discounts would provide a major thrust to our efforts to integrate technology into the curriculum. We are committed to providing our students with the computer skills that business demand and that our workforce will need to maintain our competitiveness in a global economy.

I encourage you to support the plan to provide discounts to schools for all telecommunications services including internal connections. This action will open the door of opportunity for every student in our country and help to prepare our workforce of the future.

Sincerely,

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*George E. Cooke*

George E. Cooke, Ed. D.  
Superintendent

GEC/rm



# WOODLAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1620 LIVINGSTON STREET • MANDEVILLE, LA 70448

MARIAN C. ARROWSMITH, PRINCIPAL  
JEAN KRIEGER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



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April 8, 1997

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APR 24 1997

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

Federal Communications Commission

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am a teacher from Woodlake Elementary School in St. Tammany Parish, Mandeville, Louisiana 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 and poorest 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 for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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# Franklin/Morris Associates



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David M. Morris, JD, CLU

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William D. Franklin, CFP  
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Henry C.B. Franklin

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APR 24 1997

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

RE: CC Docket Number 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt :

My name is David Morris and I am writing as a Trustee of Roland Park Country School in Baltimore, Maryland. I would like to thank you for your commitment in assuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the growing information "super highway" of the Internet.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorer schools will have opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide long distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion per year will address the needs of our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where the students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of the Internet service provider cost. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow and it is consistent with our need to invest in our young people as a country and society.

At Roland Park Country School, using the Internet is integrated in all aspects of the school's curriculum from elementary to high school. This tool enables our students--located in the city of Baltimore--to use the Internet to do research on cutting edge developments from genetics for science papers to museums of Paris for history papers. They can share their opinions on current events with the White House and share their daily experiences with students across the world. This invaluable tool is expanded and enhances the student learning experiences and

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Mr. Reed Hundt, Chairman

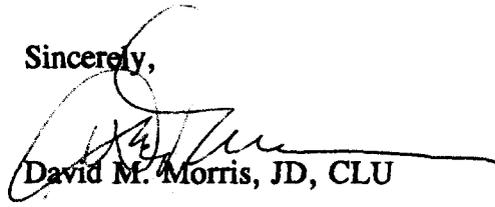
Page 2

April 21, 1997

enables them to obtain firsthand exposure to the global community. Our students do need the deep discount for telecommunication services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Boards discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Morris", written over a horizontal line.

David M. Morris, JD, CLU

DMM/rc

L. C. Reading Elementary  
360 West 2025 North, Centerville, Utah 84014  
Phone: 299-2030 Fax: 299-2663  
Craig L. Poll, Principal

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6096-45

APR 24 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Federal Communications Commission

April 2, 1997

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

Reading Elem.  
(Name of school)

Davis County School District, Utah

Alice Ripplinger

Vanna S. Taylor

Julie Huang

Jimalea Webb

Debbie Renie

Sharon Lawrence

Lorraine Raymond

Marilyn Bramble

Kathy Andersen

Maphe Humphrey

Scott L. Marshall

May E. Munnich

Craig Colt

Jennifer Burdett

Ann Willey

Donna DeSanto

Peggy Hyde

Theresa Ammons

Charlotte Madsen

Diana DeFrey

Fonda Porter

Alice Kalderson

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John

Laura Baker

Linda Williams

Judy Kelly

Rosind Drape

Jill

Judy Taylor

Karen Baker

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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

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APR 24 1997

Federal Communications Commission

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Reed Hundt:

Being a Maintenance Supervisor for the Iroquois School District for the past 20 years, I know all too well how schools use money from their general fund budgets to pay for the \$500.00 per month T1 lines and wiring for the classrooms in order to teach our students about telecommunications. I also know how financially depressed our school district is from our local business, General Electric. General Electric continues to ask for a tax reassessment and having it lowered, paying less and less tax each year. But on the other hand, General Electric expects well trained or fully trained employees, right out of school, to run their NC machines and other computerized systems.

I have also worked with our local phone company and have found a lot of resistance in helping or doing telecommunications in the schools. Just where **Will** people learn about all the new advantages and operations dealing with telecommunications?

On the street like our kids used to with sex?

We have a system to learn from, but it is being tied up and priced out of the reach for our students. I hope you will keep all students in full view when you vote on the E-Rate

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.

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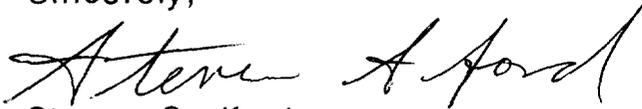
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Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven Sceiford". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name.

Steven Sceiford  
522 Nobel Ave  
Erie, PA. 16511  
814-898-2095



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... 10311 GRAND AVENUE • FRANKLIN PARK, ILLINOIS 60131 • (708) 455-6016 / 455-5890

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APR 24 1997

April 10, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
FCC  
1919 M. Street NW, Room 844  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Hunt,

RE: CC Docket 96-45 (Universal Service to Libraries and Schools)

I am writing to show the support of the Franklin Park Public Library District Board of Trustees in the meaningful discounts for libraries as recommended by the Federal-State Joint Board.

Such discounts will allow us to provide better information access for our district's 18,500 residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce W. Keclik".

Bruce W. Keclik  
President

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