

CC: 96-45

Walla Walla Public Schools

364 South Park Street
Walla Walla, Washington 99362-3293
(509) 527-3000 - FAX (509) 529-7713

Dr. Ellen L. Wolf, Superintendent

April 24, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW Room 844
Washington DC 20554
By Fax 202-418-2801

Re: Proposed \$2.25 Billion "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount

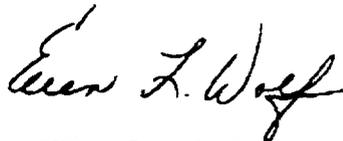
Honorable Chairman Hundt:

Please support the Joint Board's plan for a \$2.25 billion telecommunications discount to public schools. 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, most 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 Walla Walla School District will be spending approximately \$50,000 per year in data communications to provide wide area networking and Internet access services for students. With the "E-Rate" Telecommunications discount in effect, out cost would be cut by approximately 50%. The discount would not only guarantee equal access for our 12 sites, it would ensure access to worldwide information and greatly assist information exchange within our district. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway and for all your efforts on behalf of public education.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ellen L. Wolf
Superintendent of Schools

Merced

City School District

444 West 23rd St., Merced, CA 95340

Phone (209) 385-6600
FAX (209) 385-6393



Diversity our strength
Children our promise

Superintendent: Donald V. De Long, Ed. D.
Board of Education: Maureen Bultena, President, Paul de Ayora, Clerk, Karen Cole, Sue Fletcher, Leo Hernandez

April 11, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1997

Re. CC Docket No. 96-15

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am the superintendent of Merced City School District, and 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 have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of 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.

Merced City School District will use the discounts to further implement our Technology Plan: including networking eleven more sites, purchasing equipment for these sites and providing training for our classroom teachers.

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.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

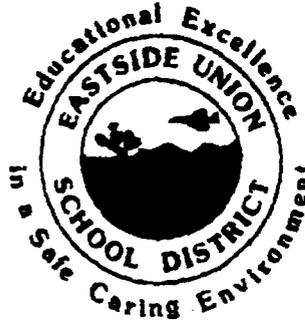
Donald V. De Long, Ed. D.
Superintendent

APR 21 11 40 AM '97

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS



Constance E. Webb
Superintendent



Board of Education

Mr. Larry Lake, President
Mr. Willard Ritchie, Vice President
Mrs. Martha D. Johnson, Clerk
Mrs. Janette T. Crawford, Member
Mrs. Ida Ward, Member

April 18, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner (Maryland)
Federal Communications Commission
FAX #202-418-2821
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

As Superintendent of the Eastside Union School District, I 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. The plan is essential for preparing our students for tomorrow's world.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. This discount will allow all students in grade 4 through 8 in the Eastside Union School District to have Internet access for research and communications with distance school districts. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Constance E. Webb

Constance E. Webb
District Superintendent

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

MAY 22 6 35 PM '97

Linda Davidson, Librarian
Georgetown Public Library
107 E. West Street
Georgetown, IL 61846

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

April 14, 1997

Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW-Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket 96-45 - Universal Service to Libraries/ Schools

Dear Honorable Ness:

I strongly support meaningful discounts for libraries and schools, as envisioned by the Federal-State Board in their Recommended Rules published last November.

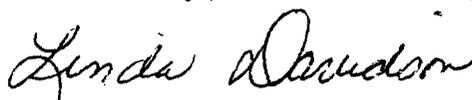
These Rules allow for discounted telecommunication and critical non-telecommunication services necessary to keep all public libraries and schools connected to the internet and other on-line resources. These services are sometimes, in our small towns, the only access many people have.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 clearly intended broad access, but without significant discounts, the schools and library in Georgetown will not be able to purchase the internal wiring for connection.

The Joint Board also recommended wide competition for the discounted service. Telecommunication and non-telco carriers should be encouraged to vie for business throughout the state, rural or urban, to keep user costs down.

Thank you for your attention to this matter on behalf of our library and schools. Feel free to advise if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Linda Davidson, Librarian
Georgetown Public Library

Apr 16 2 46 PM '97

COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

Gateway School District



DR. WAYNE W. DOYLE/Superintendent

2609 Mosside Boulevard
Monroeville, PA 15146
(412) 373-5700 • FAX (412) 373-5731

April 16, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

APR 18 2 46 PM '97

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

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.

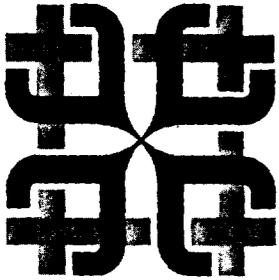
As a school superintendent, I can assure you that the proposed discounts would provide a major thrust to our efforts to integrate technology into the curriculum. We are committed to providing our students with the computer skills that business demand and that our workforce will need to maintain our competitiveness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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne W. Doyle".

Wayne W. Doyle
Superintendent of Schools



DEPARTMENT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION MINISTRIES
DIVISION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

320 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-4491
(410) 547-5384
Fax (410) 547-5566

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CC 96-45
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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

April 15, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, North West Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I write to you in behalf of the 103 Catholic schools associated with the Archdiocese of Baltimore. The Archdiocese services 36,000 students on both elementary and secondary levels. The Catholic schools of the Archdiocese are an integral part of the educational community and have the same expectations in educating productive and responsible citizens for society.

There is no denying the rapid changes that technology is making in the educational arena. All educational institutions must be benefactors of the advances that technology affords. Such technological advances must be available and affordable so that the acquisition of knowledge is not categorized by the "haves" vs the "have nots."

Catholic schools face an enormous financial challenge in order to accommodate the demands for both the internal and external connections necessary to have access to the information highway. That is why the proposed educational discounts for telecommunications recommended by the Federal-State Joint Board would be especially critical to the future of our Catholic schools. Moreover, the proposed discounts for telecommunication services to all schools and libraries will greatly assist our schools in determining how to insure that all students have equitable access to technology in the classroom without placing excessive financial burdens on our school families.

On behalf of our school community, I urge your full support for the recommendations of the Federal-State Board on Universal Service.

Thank you for your kind attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ronald J. Valenti
Superintendent of Catholic Schools



April 16, 1997

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MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness,

I am writing to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. I write as Head of School of West Nottingham Academy, an independent boarding and day school.

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 work force of tomorrow.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Baker
Head of School

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
Apr 18 2 47 PM '97



DRAKE PUBLIC

SCHOOL

500 NORTH MAIN
P.O. BOX 256
DRAKE, ND 58736

GEORGE WIELAND
Superintendent
MARVIN GOPLEN
Principal
BOARD MEMBERS
CAROL SPEAR, Pres.
ROLAND BROMLEY, Vice Pres.
DOROTHY MARTWICK, Director
RYAN KRIEDEMAN, Director
BERNICE SMITH, Director
SHIRLEY NEUMARTH, Bus. Mgr.

PHONE (701)465-3732 FAX (701)465-3634

April 14, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

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MAY 1 1997

APR 18 2 47 PM '97

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

RECEIVED

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

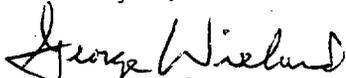
I am currently Superintendent of Drake Public School District, a district that is located in rural north central North Dakota. I would like to let you know that your efforts in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway is greatly appreciated. We thank you.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have affordable access to the Internet and be able to provide-learning opportunities in areas such as our area where they are desperately needed. I'm am confident that the \$2.25 billion per year will address the needs of all our schools, and most importantly, will bring services to classrooms where students learn. Your inclusion of internal class-connections for discounts is vital. In a rural area such as ours, this plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

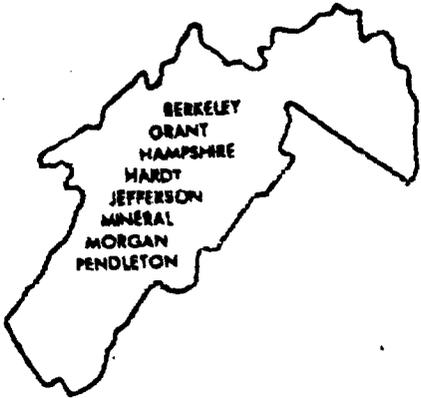
The Drake School District is trying desperately to catch up with the richer urban districts, but with half of our students on free and reduced meals, we don't have the resources to do so. In fact, we continue to fall farther and farther behind. We need funds to take us beyond stand-alone computers, most of which are Apple 2e's. We don't have the resources to pay for wiring, servers, routers and the hookups that are needed to bring the advantages of the internet to students in our classrooms.

I urge you to fully support the Joint Borad's discount plan for uni-versal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you,


George Wieland
Superintendent

CC 96-45



REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY VIII

109 S. College Street - Martinsburg, West Virginia 25401 - (304) 267-3595

EXCELLENCE AND EFFICIENCY IN EDUCATION

April 15, 1997

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APR 15 2 35 PM '97

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

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The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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 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.

Sincerely yours, _____

Charles D. Duffy, Ed.D.
Executive Director



SALEM • KEIZER
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
BUSINESS

APR 21 2 53 PM '97

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

(503) 399-3001 • FAX: (503) 399-5571

April 23, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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.

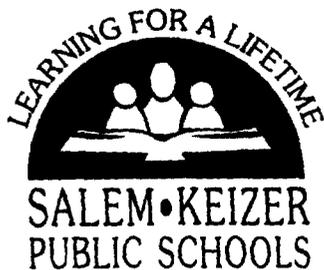
One of our district's eight student learning goals is to exhibit technological literacy, and the Telecommunications Act and Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools in our district will be able to enjoy the Internet's features, including distance learning.

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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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
David B. Bauer • Jeanean West Craig • Sharon Gray • Dan Saucy • Craig A. Smith
APR 21 2 24 PM '97

DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Neva Hutchinson, Chairperson • Bart McElroy, Vice Chairperson
1309 Perry Street SE • PO Box 12024 • Salem, Oregon 97309-0024
(503) 399-3001 • FAX: 399-5571

Homer Kearns, Superintendent

April 23, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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



Anderson
School District Five

*Building
Tomorrow
Today*

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

An Equal Opportunity Employer

April 22, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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MAY 1 1997

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
APR 22 11 56 AM '97

RE: CC Docket No 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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



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



April 21, 1997

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
 Federal Communications Commission
 1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
 Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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

Vacaville Unified School District

751 School Street • Vacaville, California 95688-3987



(707) 448-1011

April 18, 1997

Ms. Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Ness:

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

Board of Education

Larry R. Mazzuca
President

Katherine Brannon
Vice President

Sarah E. Chapman
Clerk

Kathleen M. Collier

Nicholas D. Esplin

Bill Hausler

Patricia M. (Bradani) My

Richard E. Jackson
Superintendent &
Board Secretary

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MAY 1 1997

APR 22 11 16 AM '97
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS



Petersburg Public School

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

(402) 386-53
FAX (402) 386-54

'HOME OF THE PIRATES'

April 21, 1997

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MAY 1 1997

- ADMINISTRATION
- Earl W. Fickenscher, Sup't.
- Mary Thieman, Prin.
- ADM. SECRETARY
- Mildred Luetzel
- FACULTY MEMBERS
- Elaine Beckman, 1 & 2
- Stacey Bodlan, 3 & 4
- Annette Boror, 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.
- Bocky Kerkman, Elementary
- Tom Meyer, Ind. Tech
- Bernice Milburn, K & 4
- Patricia Naber, Media/H.C.
- Michael Nicksich, Art
- Gail Robinson, SPED
- Kathy Seier, Title I
- William Trenhaile, Music
- SPED AIDE
- Karen Paulson
- SCHOOL BOARD
- Dan Thieman, Pres.
- Jerry Bode, V. Pres.
- Lynne Remmeroid, Sec.
- Jodie Boror, Treas.
- Loran Naber
- Bob Killerson
- SEC. to PRIN.
- Claudella Thieman
- MAINTENANCE
- Jerry Thieman
- Shirley Herrin
- GREEN THUMB
- Jane Goetzinger
- FOOD PRFP
- Fay Werner, Mgr.
- Virginia Foss
- Dorothy Claar
- Jolene Daniels
- Judy Bonch
- TITLE I DRIVER
- Mary Zabka
- COACH
- Amy Evans

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS



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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
OF EDUCATION

APR 21 2 49 PM '97

0096-45
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

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Ness:

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

Media Services / Technology / Foreign Language

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COMMISSIONER

APR 21 2 49 PM '97



The Honorable Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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MAY 1 1997

*Learning
for
Life*

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am a Technology Coordinator from Dearborn Public Schools 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 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 intent is to provide all student use computers in classrooms, microcomputer labs and media centers with the ability to access the Internet. Presently, we are planning to install expensive infrastructure which will provide local area networking (LAN) capabilities for each of our buildings. Allowing for inexpensive Internet services will relieve our school district of the burden of an unaffordable expense if we were to consider service to all of our student computers.

In addition, our district would like to take advantage of distance learning applications which would provide professional development activities for our teachers and additional higher level course offerings for our students which presently cost prohibitive.

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, appearing to read "Dennis Briar".

Dennis Briar
Coordinator Media/Technology/Foreign Language

18700 Audette
Dearborn, MI 48124-4295
Voice (313) 730-3038
Fax (313) 730-3041



WOODLAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1620 LIVINGSTON STREET • MANDEVILLE, LA 70448

MARIAN C. ARROWSMITH, PRINCIPAL
JEAN KRIEGER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
APR 21 2 49 PM '97

April 8, 1997

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

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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,

Carol Holland



WILLIAM F. PETTUS
Superintendent of Schools

MARIPOSA COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

April 17, 1997

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MAY 1 1997

APR 21 2 37 PM '97

OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS

RECEIVED

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket NO. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness,

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.

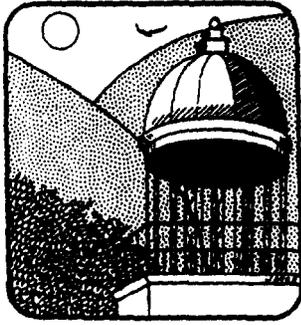
The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately needed by all students and overdue in rural areas. I beseech you to fully support the Joint Boards recommendations for our kids.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly,

Bob Bartholomew

Board of Trustees and Education



El Tejon Unified School District

Gary W. Fuller
District Superintendent

Frazier Park School
El Tejon School
Frazier Mountain
High School

April 17, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

APR 21 2 37 PM '97

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
OF EDUCATION

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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

Robert Connor
President, Board of Trustees

Victoria Stevenson Technology Coordinator

Carter County Schools
305 Academy Street
Elizabethton, TN 37643

Voice: 423-547-4063
Fax: 423-547-4040
e-mail: stevensonv@ten-nash.ten.k12.tn.us

April 17, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

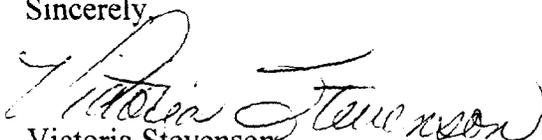
I am a Technology Coordinator from Carter County Schools in Tennessee and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

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.

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,


Victoria Stevenson
Technology Coordinator
Carter County Schools

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MAY 1 1997

APR 21 2 30 PM '97

OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS



Oakland Schools

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

April 14, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

APR 21 2 41 PM '97

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
FCC

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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

darien public schools • administrative offices

p.o. box 1167 • darien, connecticut 06820-1167 • tel. 203-656-7400 • fax 203-656-3052

April 18, 1997

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MAY 1 1997

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MAY 1 1997
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner/Chairman Ness:

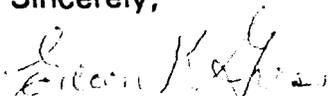
I am superintendent of the Darien Public Schools in Connecticut, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and Federal-State Joint Board decision will ensure that our district will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet, thus providing enhanced learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of the nation's schools, enabling services to be extended directly to the classroom where students learn. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

The inclusion of discounts for Internet services is vital. Our district is in the process of integrating specific telecommunications programs into our curriculum, including the federally-funded Globe Project in Grade 5 and the Jason Project in Grade 7. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Eileen K. Gress

Superintendent of Schools

EKG:nv



RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

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

(412) 366-2100

April 17, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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

LEB/caz



RECEIVED

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

APR 21 10 48 AM '97

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

MARIE MITALY
School Psychologist

April 17, 1997

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

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

FE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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,

George E. Cooke, Ed. D.
Superintendent

GEC/rm