

CC96-45

NORTHERN BEDFORD COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

HC 1 BOX 200
LOYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 16659-9703

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

PHONE: (814) 766-2221
FAX: (814) 766-3772

REC'D 7/23

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20541

April 24, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Chong

As Superintendent of the Northern Bedford County School District in Loysburg, Pennsylvania, I would like to thank you for your support for the pending Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan that would provide discounted services to schools like ours. Our district lies in a rural area of the state where connection to the Internet is especially difficult to secure and is more expensive than in most other areas. We continue to make every reasonable effort to provide similar learning opportunities and advantages to our students as are provided to students in more densely populated and wealthier areas and need help in that endeavor.

All three of our schools are located on a single campus with a technology plan scheduling the complete networking of every classroom and instructional area. Discounted cost in any form will help us realize that goal much earlier than originally planned.

The potential discounts which the Act would provide will help assure that our students leave Northern Bedford for further education and employment with advantages similar to students in other parts of the state and nation. Accordingly, I encourage you to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely



David B. Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent

jf



CC 96-45

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WEST COVINA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

1717 West Merced Avenue

West Covina, California 91790

Telephone (818) 939-4600

April 18, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Chong:

As Superintendent for the West Covina School District, I would like to thank the Chairman and your fellow commissioners at the FCC for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have access to affordable ramps onto 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 provide services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to the success of students and their ability to compete in the workplace. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

The workforce of tomorrow will require creative and critical thinking skills as well as the ability to obtain and use information from various sources. Networked computers in the classroom and access to the Information Superhighway will allow students in the West Covina Unified School District and school districts throughout the Nation to develop and utilize these skills. The West Covina Unified School District Technology Plan and those of the District's schools are forward-reaching documents that have significant components that do not currently have a designated funding source. These infrastructure components include telecommunications lines, telecommunications equipment, servers, routers and, very important, that final connection to the classroom and to the students.

The students of the West Covina Unified School District need these discounts this year. I encourage the Chairman and your fellow Commissioners at the FCC to wholly support the Federal-State Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

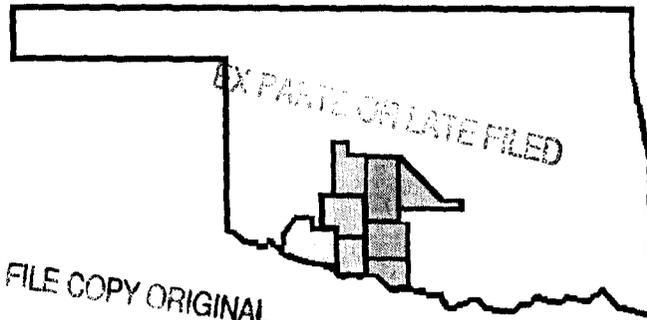
Sincerely, .

Steven L. Fish, Ed.D
Superintendent

ASSOCIATION
SOUTH
CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GOVERNMENTS, A Trust Authority

-A Regional Council of local Governments
COUNTIES - CITIES & TOWNS - CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

0096-45



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Central Office
802 Main Street
P.O. Box 1647
Duncan, OK 73534-1647
(405) 252-0595
1-800-658-1466
FAX 252-6170

Area Offices

Caddo County
132 East Broadway
Anadarko, OK 73005-2837
(405) 247-7447
FAX 247-7077

Comanche County
1703 S.W. 11th Street
Lawton, OK 73501-7305
(405) 248-0000
FAX 248-4161

Cotton County
212 N Broadway
Walters, OK 73572
(405) 875-2311

Grady County
628 Kansas
P.O. Box 886
Chickasha, OK 73023-0886
(405) 224-6792
FAX 222-0759

Jefferson County
13th & G
P.O. Box 27
Waurika, Oklahoma 73573
(405) 228-3511

McClain County
124 North Third
Purcell, OK 73080-4210
(405) 527-7939
FAX 527-9207

Stephens County
17 N. 8th
Suite B
Duncan, OK 73533
(405) 252-8159
FAX 252-8267

Tillman County
2001 E. Gladstone
P.O. Box 298
Frederick, OK 73542-0298
(405) 335-7077
FAX 335-3828

Commissioner Rachele Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Chong:

It is my understanding that Southwestern Bell Long Distance has filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission to provide long-distance service. I note that "convenience of one-stop shopping" is one of the themes being used to support the application.

Through administering programs for senior citizens, most of whom reside in rural areas, I have come to understand that "convenience" for younger folks often becomes "necessity" for the elderly. The chaos resulting from competition and choice is overwhelming for many seniors, especially those who are isolated and cannot easily access information they can understand.

Permitting Southwestern Bell Long Distance to provide long distance service would certainly assist in decreasing the telecommunications chaos by enabling senior citizens to deal with a name they are used to.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blaine H. Smith, Jr.".

Blaine H. Smith, Jr.
Executive Director

April 23, 1997

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission

CC 96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
27191 Los Arboles
Carmel, Ca 93923
April 16, 1997

Hon. Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

MAY 1 1997

Dear Commissioner Chong,

I urge you to support the e-rate draft rules in CC Docket No. 96-95. These rules would give important discounts for telecommunications services to school districts.

As a member of our school's technology committee, I am aware how these discounts will help schools reach their goals of having telecommunications services available to their students.

Your yes vote is important to the schools, to our students, and our future.

Sincerely,

Jennie Luce

Jennie Luce
Classroom Teacher
Foothill School
Monterey, Ca

CC 96-45
EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL 1700 Via Casoli
Monterey, Ca 93940
April 23, 1997

Hon. Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

MAY 1 1997
FBI

Dear Commissioner Chong,

I urge you to support the e-rate draft rules in CC Docket No. 96-95. These rules would give important discounts for telecommunications services to school districts.

As a teacher, I am aware how these discounts will help schools reach their goals of having telecommunications services available to their students.

Your yes vote is important to the schools, to our students, and our future.

Sincerely,

Marcheta Griffith

Classroom Teacher
Foothill School
Monterey, Ca

CC96-45
EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Jan Anyan
Technology Graduate Assistant
Winn Parish School Board
P.O. Box 430
Winnfield, La. 71483

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

April 16, 1997

The Honorable James Quello
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Quello:

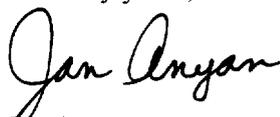
I am a technology graduate assistant from Winn Parish in central Louisiana. I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will allow even the poorest schools to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. This proposed budget will address the needs of all schools and provide funding directly to classrooms.

Winn parish will use these discounts to access the Internet through our Local Area Network. The Winn Parish Schools Technology Plan provides for computers with Internet access in every classroom within the next three years. All of our schools currently have at least two dial-up accounts.

We need discounts for telecommunications in order to better prepare our students for the workplace of the twenty-first century. I would like to encourage the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely yours,



Jan Anyan
Technology Graduate Assistant

cc: The Honorable Reed Hundt
The Honorable James Quello
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong

C 096-88

Jan Anyan
Technology Graduate Assistant
Winn Parish School Board
P.O. Box 430
Winnfield, La. 71483

April 16, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Chong:

I am a technology graduate assistant from Winn Parish in central Louisiana. 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 allow even the poorest schools to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. This proposed budget will address the needs of all schools and provide funding directly to classrooms.

Winn parish will use these discounts to access the Internet through our Local Area Network. The Winn Parish Schools Technology Plan provides for computers with Internet access in every classroom within the next three years. All of our schools currently have at least two dial-up accounts.

We need discounts for telecommunications in order to better prepare our students for the workplace of the twenty-first century. I would like to encourage the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely yours,



Jan Anyan
Technology Graduate Assistant

cc: The Honorable Reed Hundt
The Honorable James Quello
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong

C 296-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Jan Anyan
Technology Graduate Assistant
Winn Parish School Board
P.O. Box 430
Winnfield, La. 71483

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

April 16, 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20541

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

Dear Mr. Hundt,

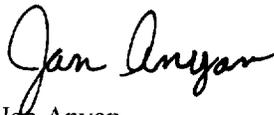
I am a technology graduate assistant from Winn Parish in central Louisiana. I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will allow even the poorest schools to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. This proposed budget will address the needs of all schools and provide funding directly to classrooms.

Winn parish will use these discounts to access the Internet through our Local Area Network. The Winn Parish Schools Technology Plan provides for computers with Internet access in every classroom within the next three years. All of our schools currently have at least two dial-up accounts.

We need discounts for telecommunications in order to better prepare our students for the workplace of the twenty-first century. I would like to encourage the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely yours,



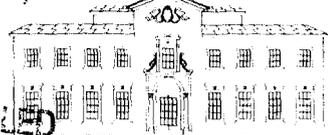
Jan Anyan
Technology Graduate Assistant

cc: The Honorable Reed Hundt
The Honorable James Quello
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong

Head of School

0096-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



SAN FRANCISCO
UNIVERSITY
HIGH SCHOOL

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

MAY 1 1997

April 17, 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20541

Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 844
Washington D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am Joan S. McMenamin, Interim Head of School, San Francisco University High School, 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 all schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet to provide added learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address needs of all our schools and will bring services directly to our classrooms. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. The plan is essential for preparing for the future work force.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joan S. McMenamin

Joan S. McMenamin

3065 Jackson Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
(415) 346-8400
Fax (415) 346-7522

0096-45

KEN HALVERSON, SUPERINTENDENT
(406) 825-7844
KATHY ZULEGER, DISTRICT CLERK
(406) 825-3113
FAX (406) 825-3114

CLINTON ELEMENTARY
DISTRICT #32
19075 E. MULLAN ROAD
P.O. BOX 250
CLINTON, MONTANA 59825-250

KAY JAMES, CHAIR
(406) 258-5461
YVONNE MORAN, VICE-CHAIR
(406) 258-6420

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 23, 1997

Mr. Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St., NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

MAY 1 1997
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As superintendent of Clinton School District #32, I urge your continued support for affordable access to the information super-highway for our school children. I understand forces are underway to reduce funding for the initiative that would ensure all children have the opportunity to experience today's technology.

I thank you for this consideration!

Respectfully,



Ken Halverson

cc: Rachelle Chong ✓
Susan Ness
James Quello



Charting Our Course

PORT ROYAL ELEMENTARY

P.O. Box 68 / 1214 Paris Avenue
Port Royal, South Carolina 29935
(803) 525-4235
FAX (803) 525-4238

CC 96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Dr. Melissa Sheppard
Principal

Mrs. Kay Keeler
Lead Teacher

April 21, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission

Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N. W., Room 844
Washington, D. C. 20554

Dear Commissioner:

We are currently teachers in the Beaufort County School District, Beaufort County, SC. We would like to share with you our desire that you continue to support affordable access to the Information Superhighway through the Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan to schools. Your support of the discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities.

In order to ensure that all of our students have the opportunity to learn, services directly to the classroom are needed. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is very important to preparing our students for the world of tomorrow. Our school is undergoing a technology integration plan which will ensure access to a variety of multi-media opportunities. We need the deep discounts in telecommunications in order to continue to provide them with informational access that will prepare them for the future. We strongly urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Faculty of Port Royal Elementary:

M. Sheppard
J. Holmes
Chris Jones
Kay Keeler
Kay Keeler
Marsha Young

CC96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL Via Casoli
Monterey, Ca 93940
April 23, 1997

Hon. Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECORDED
MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission

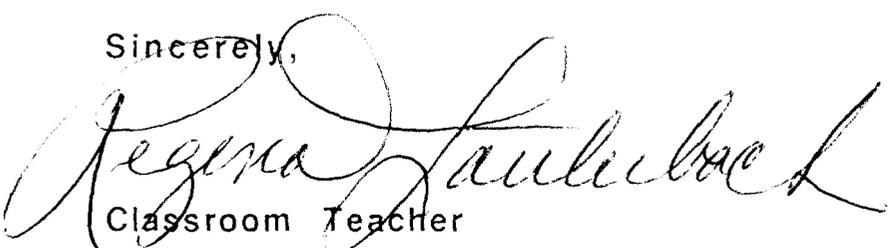
Dear Commissioner Chong,

Please vote YES on the e-rate draft rules in CC Docket No.96-95.
The rules would give important discounts for telecommunication
services to school districts.

These discounts will help schools, which have tight budgets to
accomplish basic educational tasks, reach their goals of having
telecommunications services available to their students.

A yes vote is important to the schools, to our students, and
our future.

Sincerely,



Classroom Teacher
Foothill School
Monterey, Ca

CC 96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

1700 Via Casoli
Monterey, Ca 93940
April 23, 1997

Hon. Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1997
Federal Communications Commission

Dear Commissioner Chong,

You are considering e-rate draft rules (CC Docket No.96-95). This proposal will give important discounts for telecommunication services to school districts. I ask your support for these rules.

These discounts will help schools, which have tight budgets to accomplish basic educational tasks, reach their goals of having telecommunications services available to their students.

A YES vote is important to our nation's school children and their future in an increasingly technological world.

Sincerely,



Classroom Teacher
Foothill School
Monterey, Ca



PC96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

STEEL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Administrative Offices

April 22, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

MAY 1 1997
FED. COMM. COMM.

Dear Commissioner Chong:

By way of introduction, my name is John Tichon and I am the Director of Secondary Education for Steel Valley School District in Munhall, Pennsylvania. On behalf of our administrators, staff and students, I would like to thank you for all the time and effort you have spent in ensuring that *all* schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway by way of the Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan.

The Internet is a remarkable learning tool; however, our district has suffered extreme revenue losses due to the closing of United States Steel's Homestead Plant and other subsequent closings of area industry/business, thus making it very difficult for us to pay the toll to the Superhighway. The Internet, and our district's current involvement in a School-to-Work collaborative, are excellent means to better prepare our students for the workforce of tomorrow. Discounts received for telecommunications services would be a tremendous help in being able to provide our students with the opportunities they need to become life-long learners and productive citizens.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries which would mean so much to poorer districts such as ours.

Sincerely,


John J. Tichon

CC 76-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Jan Anyan
Technology Graduate Assistant
Winn Parish School Board
P.O. Box 430
Winnfield, La. 71483

April 16, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

Dear Mrs. Ness:

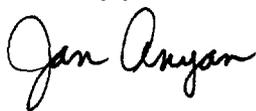
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The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will allow even the poorest schools to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. This proposed budget will address the needs of all schools and provide funding directly to classrooms.

Winn parish will use these discounts to access the Internet through our Local Area Network. The Winn Parish Schools Technology Plan provides for computers with Internet access in every classroom within the next three years. All of our schools currently have at least two dial-up accounts.

We need discounts for telecommunications in order to better prepare our students for the workplace of the twenty-first century. I would like to encourage the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely yours,



Jan Anyan
Technology Graduate Assistant

cc: The Honorable Reed Hundt
The Honorable James Quello
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong



National Association of Black Telecommunications Professionals, Inc.

1025 Vermont Avenue, N.W. - Suite 910 - Washington, D.C. 20005-3516

1-800-946-6228

Internet - <http://www.nabtp.org>

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

OR 96-45

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communication Commission

Commissioner Rachelle B. Chang
c/o Adele Andrews
1919 M Street, N.W. Suite 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Chang:

Per our conversation and/or message left with your office, I am requesting 10-15 minutes of your time to consider the following items:

- Implementation of the 1996 Telecommunications Act.
- The plan or blueprint to accomplish the implementation of the Telecommunications Act.
- What impact the Telecommunications Act will have on industry and community
- What the FCC is currently working on that will impact the telecommunications industry.

Ten to Fifteen people will attend this meeting from various regional holding companies who are members of the National Association of Black Telecommunications Professionals, Inc. (NABTP). I can provide you with a list of names of attendees by Wednesday, April 30, 1997. We have one hour scheduled for the Federal Communication Commission on Thursday, May 1, 1997 and would like, if possible, to have a welcome and opening remarks by Chairman Reed Hundt and for each Commissioner that is available to say a few words. If that is not possible, then we would like to have a small group meeting of 10 to 15 minutes duration with available Commissioners or Senior Legal Analyst.

I hope your schedule will permit your constituency to meet with you on a group or individual basis. Thank you for your time and assistance on our behalf.

Sincerely,

Jacalyn S. Wallace
NABTP Conference Chair

cc: Counsel William Kennard

0096-45

A POLLO

EXPATTS OR LATE PAID
The University of Phoenix, Inc.
Institute for Professional Development
Apollo Development Corporation
Apollo Press

April 25, 1997

Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street NW Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1997
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Dear Commissioner Chong:

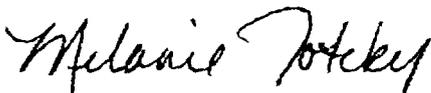
I understand that the FCC is considering a proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly called a Federal Equitable Recovery Charge (FERC). The FERC charge is to be at least \$4.50 per line per month to support extending new telecommunications capabilities to schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. At the same time that the FCC is considering imposing these new costs on American businesses, I understand that the Commission will not take the long overdue step of bringing rates closer to the true economic cost of local access services.

I urge you not to adopt the foregoing proposals which would, in effect, impose a new tax on American businesses, regardless of whether it is characterized as a "rate re-balancing" or "modification of rate structures". The monetary burden of the \$4.50 FERC charge alone to my company would exceed \$10,000 per month.

With all due respect, I believe that the imposition of such taxes is the business of the people's representatives, not appointed officials. Nationwide educational and healthcare initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all interested authorities, not just as a telecommunications matter by the FCC.

The time for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges, which are more than \$3 billion a year higher than they should be, is long overdue. All consumers, businesses as well as residential, deserve protection from excessive monopoly prices. The Administration's social policy agenda should be addressed in other ways and not get in the way of these reforms.

Sincerely,



Melanie A. Totcky
Manager, Telecommunications
Information Services Department

Montgomery County Elementary School
900 Martin Luther King Drive
Ailey, GA 30410
912/583-2279
912/583-4560 (Fax)

CC96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20541

April 25, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner:

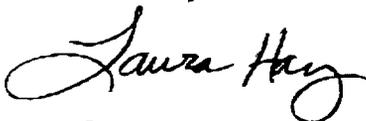
Thank you for all of your hard work towards bringing equality to our schools. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision are going to make a tremendous difference in the education of students everywhere.

Currently, our students do not have access to the Internet at all, unless they have a computer at home. Since the majority of our students are from very low income households, very few of them even have home computers. Our school system has also been unable to afford Internet connections. This is often very frustrating when the rest of the world seems to be "connected," and is expecting you to be able to E-mail, and download items just like they do.

We are dedicated to providing the best possible education for our 671 students in spite of the adversities we face. That's why it's so imperative that the plan include services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. I urge you to please support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools. Every child counts, and every child deserves the same opportunities that those in more metropolis areas have.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Laura Hay
Technology Specialist

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

CC 96-45



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

Edward T. Schafer
Governor of North Dakota
Chairman

Tony Knowles
Governor of Alaska
Vice Chairman

James M. Souby
Executive Director

Headquarters:
600 17th Street
Suite 1705 South Tower
Denver, Colorado 80202-5452

(303) 623-9378
Fax (303) 534-7309

Washington, D.C. Office:
400 N. Capitol Street, N.W.
Suite 388
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 624-5402
Fax (202) 624-7707

April 29, 1997

Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C.

Dear Commissioner Chong:

Re: Universal Service Rules; Healthcare providers and section 254(h)(1)(A) of the 1996 Act

As you know, the Western Governors' Association (WGA) has actively participated in the FCC's process to implement the healthcare provisions in the 1996 Telecommunications Act. We write once more to urge you to do all you can to make telemedicine and other healthcare uses of the telecommunications network as cost-effective and as workable as possible.

Specifically, with your rules due to be published shortly, the WGA again asks you to eliminate the user costs associated with mileage-based charges. In the West and in many other parts of the country, where traditional charges penalize those who live and work far outside urban areas, telemedicine providers continue to struggle to pay charges with high mileage components. This is precisely the reason Congress called for comparability between urban and rural areas in the 1996 Act. In order to obviate the effects of distance, rural charges for certain health care providers should be "reasonably comparable" to charges for similar services in urban areas. Without this comparability, the benefits promised in this part of the Act will never be realized.

Related to the mileage charge issue, I understand the Commission continues to debate the wisdom of its order directing toll-free Internet access for health care providers who lack local Internet service. You should clearly apply the comparability standard here as well. At this point Internet service is the standard vehicle for a great deal of public service communications, including healthcare. Full use of this application will be delayed in rural areas unless it is reasonably priced. Please take the opportunity to make Internet access affordable for rural health care providers.

Thank you again for considering the needs of the West in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Edward T. Schafer
WGA Chairman
Governor of North Dakota

CC 96-45

1830 Nogales Street
P.O. Box 8490
Rowland Heights
CA 91748

(818) 965-2541
(Fax) 854-8302

Office of the Superintendent



Governing Board

Jerre Davenport
Peter H. Lamphere
Mary Jo Maxwell
Paul E. Walters
Melody Yu

Dr. Ronald J. Leon,
Superintendent

PASTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 22, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Honorable Chong:

On behalf of the Rowland Unified School District, in Los Angeles County, California, I urge you to support the proposed "e-rate" for our schools.

Affordable access to the Information Superhighway is one important educational tool needed to prepare California students for the job market of the next century.

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 bring technology/telecommunication access into the classroom. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital.

Rowland Unified is committed to bringing the world into our classrooms and extending student learning experiences beyond the confines of the school. Deep discounts for telecommunication services will enable this effort to move forward in 1997 and future years.

I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools, and thank you for your support of our future citizens.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Leon, Ed.D.

RJL:ac

c: Board of Education

CC 96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

1700 Via Casoli
Monterey, Ca 93940
April 23, 1997

Hon. Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Chong,

I urge you to support the e-rate draft rules in CC Docket No. 96-95. These rules would give important discounts for telecommunications services to school districts.

As a teacher, I am aware how these discounts will help schools reach their goals of having telecommunications services available to their students.

Your yes vote is important to the schools, to our students, and our future.

Sincerely,

Karen Kessler

Classroom Teacher
Foothill School
Monterey, Ca



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CC96-45

OKC CHAPTER * AMERICAN GI FORUM
A Veterans Family Organization Since 1948

Pfc. Manuel Perez Jr. Center
Commander, Jose 'Marty' Martinez

Telephone (405) 522-1272
2501 South Western, Oklahoma City, OK73101

Federal Communications Commission
Commissioner Rachelle Chong
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Federal Communications Commission

April 14, 1997

Dear Commissioner Chong:

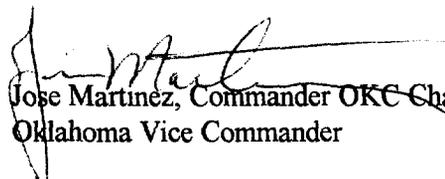
We have recently become aware that Southwestern Bell Telephone Company has applied for a Long Distance Carrier's license from the Federal Communications Commission and we would like to inform you of our support on behalf of Southwestern Bell.

All of our members are Southwestern Bell Telephone subscribers and the majority of them have had bad experiences with many of the current long-distance carriers now soliciting business in Oklahoma. With Southwestern Bell we have a proven and trusted company with a history of reliable, affordable telephone and customer service. It would be very convenient for all of us if we only had to deal with one proven company for all of our telephone services. Many of our members are elderly and when problems with long-distance calls occur, they sometimes pay rather than go through all the hassle of dealing with their current long-distance carriers. These same members are on fixed incomes and can hardly afford that loss.

The partnership that Southwestern Bell has with the people of Oklahoma goes beyond the normal partnerships between businesses and the public. For years, Southwestern Bell Telephone has been the leader in forging partnerships with our public schools by providing communications access to much of the high technologies they now enjoy. This includes video computer conferencing, inter-net access and the fiber-optic lines that carry that technology.

The job growth, competitive posture, more choices, and of course, one carrier who will provide all services, will be great for Oklahoma, in particular, our rural areas. On behalf of our Oklahoma membership, I respectfully ask that you accept this letter in support of Southwestern Bell's request.

Sincerely,


Jose Martinez, Commander OKC Chapter &
Oklahoma Vice Commander

c. El Nacional Hispanic Newspaper
Mexican American Political Association of Oklahoma
American GI Forum National

CC 96-45



BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Post Office Drawer 309
Beaufort, South Carolina 29901-0309
(803) 525-4200
FAX (803) 525-4324

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LAURA BUSH

Vice Chairman
CHARLES KRESCH

Secretary
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Ronald Speaks
Bonnie Smith

Superintendent
HERMAN K. GAITHER

April 24, 1997

The Honorable Rachele B. Chong
Commissioner
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: The Telecommunications Act of 1996

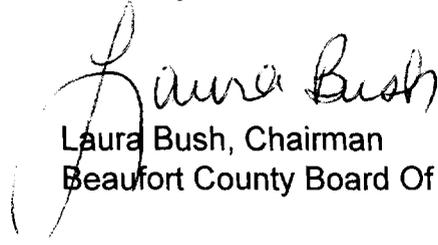
Dear Commissioner Chong:

As chairman of the Beaufort County Board of Education, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your dedication toward ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 for schools and libraries, provides substantial discounts for even the poorest schools allowing them the opportunity to connect to the Internet, more importantly the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn.

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

Sincerely,


Laura Bush, Chairman
Beaufort County Board Of Education

LB/ljw

CareAmerica

Via Facsimile

April 28, 1997

Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. St. NW Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

CC 96-45
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MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

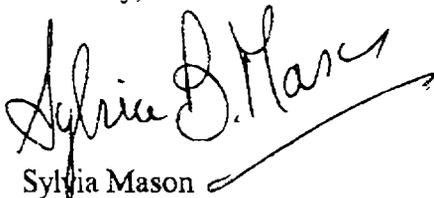
Dear Commissioner Chong:

We at CareAmerica Health Plans are very concerned about your proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly called a FERRO, of at least \$4.50 per line per month to support new telecommunications capabilities at schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. As a health plan with more than 263,000 group and Medicare members, we utilize approximately 800 phone lines at our company, 20 % of which are toll-free and provide free and direct access to our members should they need assistance with any aspect of their coverage or medical services. A fee of \$4.50 per line per month would add a charge of more than \$43,000 a year to our company's telephone costs, of which more than \$10,000 would be added to our current costs of providing toll-free service to these customers.

I urge you not to adopt the Subscriber Line Charge increase, which would impose an expensive, additional tax on all businesses and would impact many organizations' abilities to provide toll-free customer service and access. We believe that taxes to support telecommunications for schools, libraries, rural healthcare providers or others should be supported by all sectors, not just businesses who rely heavily on telecommunications.

It is time for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges. All telecommunications consumers -- businesses as well as residential -- deserve protection from excessive monopoly prices. The Administration's social policy agenda should be addressed in other ways that do not penalize businesses which already are paying excessive rates to meet their telecommunications needs.

Sincerely,



Sylvia Mason
Director, Telecommunications Services
CareAmerica Health Plans

cc: Robert White, President
Bob Steiger, CIO

Arizona Health Sciences Library



CC 96-45
EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

1501 N. Campbell Ave.
PO Box 245079
Tucson, Arizona 85724-5079
(520) 626-6241
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April 28, 1997

MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am president-elect of the Medical Library Association and an Associate Director of the Arizona Telemedicine Project. In these capacities, I urge you to support a "universal service" policy that provides rural access and costs equal to the same services provided in urban areas. This means that telecommunication rates should be "distance insensitive" and that access to an Internet service provider should be a local or toll-free call. To do otherwise would, in my opinion, both undermine the intent of Congress and take the teeth out of the "universal service" provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Telemedicine has the potential to improve substantially the delivery of health care in underserved rural areas. Telecommunications services, including telemedicine, should be available in rural areas at rates comparable to those in urban areas.

Sincerely,

Rachael K. Anderson
Director

RKA/smk