



Greater Shawnee Area  
Chamber of Commerce

**SEDF**

EX PARTE ORIGINATED  
Shawnee Economic Development Foundation, Inc.  
Post Office Box 1613 • Shawnee, OK 74802-1613

0296-45

April 25, 1997

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

MAY 1 1997  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

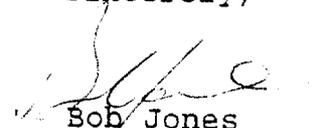
Dear Ms. Chong:

At this time, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission is considering the fourteen (14) FCC requirements Southwestern Bell must meet to be authorized to offer long distance service for Oklahomans.

Southwestern Bell is doing an outstanding job of providing services in Oklahoma. With their entry into long distance service, we will benefit greatly by the creation of new jobs in Oklahoma, thus enhancing our state's economy.

Your approval will allow Southwestern Bell the ability to offer our citizens more choices, better service and greater value for services.

Sincerely;

  
Bob Jones  
President/CEO

# Keep America Connected!

National Campaign for Affordable Telecommunications

MAY 1 1997  
EX PARTE OR LATE FILED  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

CC 96-45

David Newburger, Chair  
Connect Missouri

For Immediate Release:  
April 24, 1997

For More Information Contact:  
Angela Ledford 202-842-4080

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

## Disability Advocates Urge Hundt Not to Sacrifice Accessibility in the Name of Competition

African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Al Chem  
Alliance for Public Technology  
Alpha Kappa Alpha  
Alpha One  
American Agri-Women  
American Association for Adult  
and Continuing Education  
American Beekeeping Federation  
American Coalition for Ethanol  
Association for Gerontology and  
Human Development at Historically  
Black Colleges and Universities  
Central Alabama Health Alliance, Inc.  
Communications Workers of America  
Connect Missouri  
Federation of Southern Cooperatives Land  
Assistance Fund  
Florida Association for the Deaf  
Green County Democrat  
MCIL Resources for Independent Living  
Massachusetts Assistive Technology  
Partnership  
Mid-America International Agri-Trade  
Council  
Missouri Center on Minority Health  
and Aging  
National Agricultural Aviation Association  
National Association of Commissions  
for Women  
National Association of Development  
Organizations  
National Black Caucus of State Legislators  
National Council of Senior Citizens  
National Farmers Union  
National Hispanic Council on Aging  
National Hispanic Law Enforcement  
Association  
The National Trust  
National Latino Telecommunications  
Task Force  
Northern Virginia Resource Center for  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons  
Palm Beach County Association of  
the Deaf, Inc.  
Personal Family Service Corporation  
Presidents Club for Telecommunications  
Justice  
United Homeowners Association  
United Seniors Health Cooperative  
United States Durum Growers Association  
United States Telephone Association  
Universal Service Alliance  
Virginia Public Interest Coalition  
Wheat Quality Council  
Women Involved in Farm Economics  
Women of Distinction  
World Institute on Disability  
Youth Entrepreneurial Leadership Institute

(WASHINGTON DC... April 24, 1997) In a letter sent today to FCC Chairman Reed Hundt, leading disability advocates expressed concern that access charge and universal service rules will undermine progress made in making telecommunications more accessible to people with disabilities.

The letter was endorsed by Alpha One, College for Living, Florida Association of the Deaf, MCIL Resources for Independent Living, Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons, Palm Beach County Association of the Deaf, World Institute on Disability.

The groups remind Chairman Hundt of the progress made in the 1996 Telecommunications Law Act that required network-based services be made accessible to people with disabilities. The groups express concern that the access charge and universal service rules "will have a major impact on the integrity and capacity of the public network."

"Drastic reductions in access charges threaten to push up local rates or to discourage investment in the network... Rules that force rates up and discourage investment will erode universal service, no matter how much money you put into a fund."

The letter maintains that advances in accessibility are only meaningful if the consumers are connected to a well-maintained, robust, high-capacity local network. They point out that, "It is unwise and counter-productive to ignore the important relationship between the goals of access to telecommunications for persons with disabilities and the broader policy goals of affordability and integrity of the local network."

For a copy of the letter please contact Angela Ledford at (202) 842-4080

P.O. Box 27911, Washington, DC 20005  
202-842-4080

CC 96-45

JAMES DOWNS  
*President*  
DOREEN McDANIEL  
*Vice President*  
ROBERT HARDY  
*Clerk*  
DAVID VAN FLEET  
*Member*  
PAUL VINCENT AVILA  
*Member*

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

# Ontario-Montclair School District

950 West D Street, Ontario, California 91762 • (909) 459-2502, Ext. 4445 • FAX (909) 459-2542

FRANK A. COSCA, Ed.D.  
*Superintendent*

April 21, 1997

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission

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

Dear Ms. Chong:

It is so very evident in this day and age that telecommunication service is an absolute necessity in the educational dream of the future. The potential of implementing the Telecommunication Act of 1996 would be significant to our district.

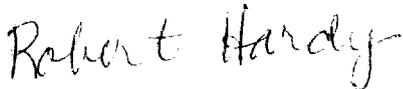
The Ontario-Montclair School District is considered to be an impoverished district and would therefore, be a considerable benefactor should the Telecommunications Act be approved.

Such passage will allow our young people the opportunity to become appreciably more involved with the concept in question. It is our thrust to provide as great an exposure as is possible.

Without doubt, any youngster having this opportunity to become familiar with and embrace telecommunications will be much better prepared to succeed in this era.

Your positive response will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Robert Hardy, Clerk  
Board of Trustees



**EPITOPE**

April 24, 1997

Epitope Inc  
8505 SW Creekside Place  
Beaverton, Oregon 97005  
503.643.6115  
Fax 503.643.2781

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Michael L. Dunton  
Epitope Incorporated  
8505 S.W. Creekside Place  
Beaverton, Oregon 97005

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

RECEIVED  
MAY 1 1997  
Federal Communications Commission

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We have learned, through our association in *The Information Technology and Telecommunications Association (TCA)*, that the *Federal Communications Commission (FCC)* is considering a proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly called a FER0, of at least \$4.50 per line per month. It is our understanding that these new fees are intended as support for 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, we are told 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 rebalancing" or "modification of rate structures". With all due respect, we believe that the imposition of such taxes is the responsibility of the citizen elected representatives, and not appointed officials. Furthermore, nationwide educational and health care initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all responsible authorities and not just as a telecommunications matter by the FCC.

The time has come for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges, which are more than \$3 billion a year higher than they should be. 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,

Michael L. Dunton  
Information and Telecommunication Systems Manager

cc: Commissioner James H. Quello, Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner Susan Ness  
Elizabeth Furse, US Representative  
Gordon Smith, US Senator  
Ron Wyden, US Senator

CC 96-45

# Henderson Community School

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

BLAINE FRIESEN  
Secondary Principal

DR. NORMAN E. YODER  
Superintendent

RONALD PAULS  
Elementary Principal

Box 626 • HENDERSON, NEBR. 68371 • (402) 723-4434 • FAX (402) 723-4431 • e-mail: nyoder@esu6.esu6.k12.ne.us

April 14, 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

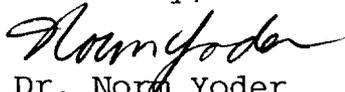
I am a superintendent from Henderson Community School, Henderson, Nebraska, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

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

These discounts will assist us in being able to continue offering internet services and distance learning classroom, although we are experiencing major reduction in funding because of current legislation.

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.

Sincerely,

  
Dr. Norm Yoder  
Superintendent

NY:dk

CC 96-45

FREDRICK A. WENTWORTH  
County Superintendent  
EX PARTE ON LATE FILED



# SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

April 10, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

MAY 1 1997

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

Dear Commissioner Chong:

As the San Joaquin County Superintendent of Schools, I would like to express my appreciation to you for your dedication to ensure that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The current implementation proposal, recommended by a Federal-State Joint Board established by the Federal Communications Commission would provide essential discounts to telecommunication services for classrooms throughout our State of California and allow for school districts within our county the flexibility to determine what services they need, which are most economical, and make the most sense for their educational mission. The San Joaquin County consists of several rural school districts which are struggling to provide telecommunications services to their students at the funding currently provided. The proposed school portion of the fund would certainly assist all school districts in bringing these services directly to the classroom where students may learn and experience the world of technology.

I strongly urge your support of this proposed \$2.25 billion "e-rate" telecommunications discount plan for universal service for schools. This plan is essential in preparing our students for the workforce of tomorrow. If you are in need of further information regarding our area directly, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Fredrick A. Wentworth.

Fredrick A. Wentworth, Ed.D.,  
County Superintendent of Schools





## Department of Education and Cultural Affairs

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 15, 1997

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

5302

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission

RE: "E-rate" for Schools

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am writing to convey my support for the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan which you will soon vote on. I represent the public schools and libraries of South Dakota, mostly small and rural. It is absolutely essential that our students and citizens have affordable access to global telecommunications. Indeed, the economic future of our state **DEPENDS** on it!

At the urging of our Governor, William J. Janklow, South Dakota is wiring its schools for advanced telecommunications. The state legislature has appropriated tax dollars to purchase supplies; teams of prison inmates have been trained to provide the labor for both the cabling and electrical upgrading! The ability to apply discounts to ongoing connection charges will be a key factor in fully utilizing the telecommunications capacity they will soon have!

Your commission has an opportunity to make a tremendous impact on student learning, right down to the classroom level. I believe the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan have the potential to open up almost unlimited opportunities for learners. Telecommunications certainly increases the likelihood that students will achieve higher academic standards, **AND** at the same time, will provide resources which are essential for long-term economic growth and development. "Affordable" telecommunications rates for schools and libraries are the **KEY** to access--students, educators, parents and community members will all benefit from increased information and resources. Small rural states such as South Dakota will realize huge benefits from equalized and discounted rates for schools and libraries.

I urge you, Commissioner Chong, to create truly affordable rates for telecommunications services for schools and libraries this year, and to ensure that internal classroom connections are included within the discounted services.

Sincerely,

Karon L. Schaack  
Secretary



# San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools

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

0096-45  
Barry Pulliam, Ed.D., Superintendent • (909) 387-4386

Administrative Services Division • (909) 387-3205

Business Services • (909) 387-4359

Curriculum/Instruction Division • (909) 387-3121

Information Systems • (909) 387-4466

Student Services Division • (909) 387-4417

April 17, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Ms. Rachelle Chong, Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W. , Room 844  
Washington, CA 20554

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Chong,

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

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

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

Representing a Unified Strong Voice Of Support,

Barry Pulliam  
Superintendent, San Bernardino County Schools

BP:TK:cs

CC 96-45

# USD 251 North Lyon County

Superintendent  
Steven Mollach

Clerk  
Mary Y. Oliver

Treasurer  
Judith Mundy

Box 527

Americus, Kansas 66835

Phone: 316-443-5116

Fax: 316-443-5659

EX-PART-OR-LATE

Board of Education

Gene Grady, President

Joe Felby, Vice President

Sherry Andersen

Kitty Frank

Ronda Hooper

Jerry Retallick

Roger Wells

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

*"Where Learning is a Journey, Not a Race"*

April 16, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Consumer Affairs

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

Dear Commissioner Chong:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Steven Mollach  
Superintendent of Schools

### DISTRICT ATTENDANCE CENTERS

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

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

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

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

**CHIPPEWA VALLEY SCHOOLS**

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

CE 96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

**MOHAWK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**48101 Romeo Plank Road**  
**Macomb, Michigan 48044**

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

April 14, 1997

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

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Ms. Chong;

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

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

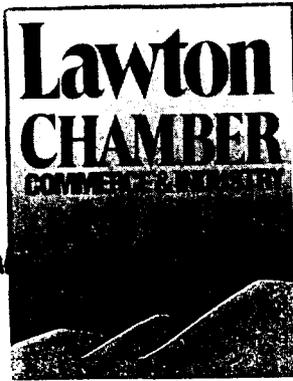
Our students and schools need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

*Kenneth Madeleine*

Kenneth Madeleine  
Principal



CC 96-45

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EX PARTE ON LATE FILED

April 15, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have heard all the hype and hoopla, The Telecommunications Act of 1996 would open America to a free and vibrant marketing system with a spectrum of telecommunications services. Customers (Oklahomans) would have choices, customers would be in control. All this to mean not only more options, but lower costs and better services.

One year later, Oklahoma has not seen much difference, although the media is full of telecommunications company announcements and pronouncements. This is what compels me to write to you today.

It is my understanding that the FCC is committed, via the Telecommunications Act, to competition in all communications markets. This being the case, I urge your support of SBC Communication's 271 application for approval to offer long distance service in Oklahoma.

Having another company, particularly one the caliber of Southwestern Bell, offering long distance service is good for Oklahoma companies. Competition is good. It will produce more choice, better service, greater value for our existing businesses and opportunities for more job creation in Oklahoma.

Oklahoma is an emerging State poised for more great things to come. This link to the long distance arena could significantly impact my state's economy. It is in the best interest of Oklahoma for the Federal Communications Commission to allow SBC Communications and Oklahoma to be the pioneers into this new environment.

I respectfully request your support of SBC Communication's application for approval to offer long distance service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark McCord". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Mark McCord, CCE  
President-Lawton Chamber of Commerce and Industry

cc:

Commissioner James Quello  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Rachelle Chang

# RESA-6



0096-45  
DISPATCHED  
REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY VI  
*Serving the Northern Panhandle*

30 G. C. & P. Road  
Wheeling, WV 26003

(304) 243-0440  
Fax (304) 243-0443

April 15, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The Honorable 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:

Although West Virginia has fewer 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 school abreast with the rest of the nation in educational technology. However, 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.

Your consideration of this request will be greatly appreciated. Students and teachers of West Virginia's Northern Panhandle are looking forward to quickly taking advantage of the quality educational experiences which will be made possible through the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the FCC regulations.

Sincerely,

  
Stanley C. Stewart  
Executive Director

SCS/lcc



# California Library Services Board

LIBRARY-COURTS BUILDING  
P.O. BOX 942837  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94237-0001

(916) 654-0266

CC 96-45

April 15, 1997

EXHIBIT 10-11-97

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C.

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

Dear Chairman Chung:

As President of the California Library Services Board, a citizen body appointed by the Governor and the Legislature to administer the State-funded resource-sharing activities among libraries, I am most pleased with the Universal Service section of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 that allows libraries to receive discounted rates. This discount will enable widespread public access to a broad range of telecommunications services, a provision reinforced by the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendations that reflect the rapidly-changing spectrum of telecommunications. While the \$2.25 billion cap may prove too low in the long run to accommodate the citizens of this nation, it is a realistic starting point.

The California Library Services Board generally supports the Joint Board's recommendations. However, we do have several suggestions:

1. Clarify that for-profit libraries may, indeed, receive the Universal Service discount if they are eligible for federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds under their individual State-based plans, as per the Telecommunications Act itself which did not distinguish between for-profit and not-for-profit libraries.
2. Cost-recovery fees charged to library patrons for telecommunications services should not be defined as "resales;" the proposed definition and related recommendation would have the negative impact of limiting public access to terminals and services in libraries.
3. Discount schedules based on the National School Lunch Program do not work well for libraries that are not part of K-12 school jurisdictions. U.S. Census data on poverty among the general population would be a far better, and more reliable, indicator for public libraries; there may be other measures more suitable for college, hospital, etc., libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

*John K. Kallenberg (Beu)*

John K. Kallenberg, President  
California Library Services Board

April 10, 1997

**NASBE**

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
STATE BOARDS OF EDUCATION

EX PARTE OR LATE FILING

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

RECEIVED

CC 96-45

MAY 1 1997

Dear Commissioner Chong:

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

**President**  
Thomas Davis  
Missouri

**Past President**  
Patricia Hayes  
Colorado

**President-Elect**  
Lyle Neumann  
Illinois

**Secretary-Treasurer**  
Barbara Roberts Mason  
Michigan

**Northeastern Area Directors**  
Beverly Greenberg  
Connecticut

James C. Dawson  
New York

**Southern Area Directors**  
Ethel Hall  
Alabama

Adrienne Ottaviani  
Maryland

**Central Area Directors**  
Betty Preston  
Missouri

Norma Cook  
Indiana

**Midwest Area Directors**  
Kevin Gilmore  
Kansas

Emmalou Rodriguez  
New Mexico

**Pacific Area Directors**  
William Byron Darden  
Arizona

Judith Stiegler  
Oregon

The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) is a private nonprofit association representing state and territorial boards of education. Our principal objectives are to strengthen state leadership in education policy-making, promote excellence in the education of all students, advocate equality of access to educational opportunity, and assure responsible governance of public education.

We are writing to express our support for the Federal-Joint State Board on Universal Service's recommendations to the Federal Communications Commission regarding discounted access charges to telecommunications services for schools and libraries. Establishment of an educational rate, the "e-rate," and final approval of their proposals are vital to providing students and teachers affordable access to the information superhighway.

While the nation is experiencing fantastic growth in Internet use, our schools lag far behind in the ability to utilize its educational benefits. According to the Department of Education only 14% of schools nationwide are now connected to the Internet. For many cash-strapped schools struggling to provide the bare minimum of basic instructional materials such as textbooks, the costs associated with obtaining advanced computer technology and installing the necessary wired infrastructure remain prohibitively high. Adoption of the Federal-Joint State Board's plan would go a long way toward enabling schools to offer the technological opportunities and education students will need to succeed in the 21st century.

If the recommendations are approved, the average school would receive a 60% discount rate on a all telecommunications services including Internet access, internal classroom connections, and installation and maintenance costs. The proposals allow schools the flexibility to develop a level of service best suited to their educational goals and financial budgets. Perhaps most importantly, direct classroom connections to the Internet will become more common and ensure students receive a hands-on learning experience.

This matter is in the utmost public interest. Without educational discounts, many students will remain technologically illiterate. NASBE urges you to approve the universal service recommendations for schools and libraries in implementing the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

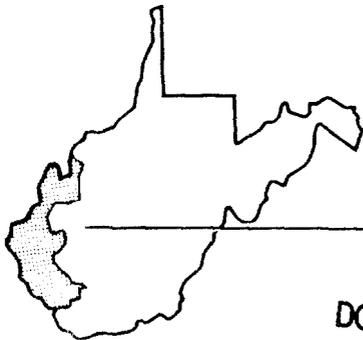
Sincerely,

Brenda L. Welburn  
Executive Director

1012 Cameron Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

703-684-4000  
FAX 703-836-2313  
E-mail: boards@nasbe.org

  
Brenda Lilienthal Welburn  
Executive Director



CC 96-45

EX PARTE ON LINE FILED

# Regional Education Service Agency, II

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

Ted L. Triplett, Executive Director

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

April 16, 1997

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

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

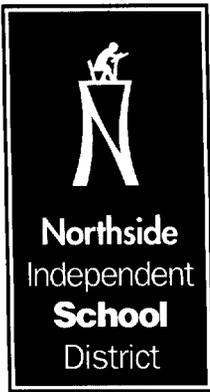
It is particularly important that schools and school districts receive the proposed deep discounts for internal classroom wiring and connections. Without proper internal wiring, the needed services will not get to the classroom where they will be most effective. It is also important that local control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

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

Sincerely,

Ted L. Triplett  
Executive Director  
RESA II

TLT/rmb



0094-45

EX-100-100000

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

MAY 1 1997

April 14, 1997

**Ed Rawlinson**

Superintendent

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

Dear Commissioner Chong:

As superintendent of Northside Independent School District, the seventh largest public school system in Texas, I would like to thank you for your vigilance in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

As written, 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, most importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Northside ISD's Strategic Plan for Technology directs that all 2600+ classrooms in this sprawling, rapidly-growing, suburban-urban school system be connected to the Internet within the next few years. With an aggressive plan that calls for a minimum of five student computers and one multi-media computer teacher workstation per classroom, the successful connection through the school district's Wide Area Network to the world's information resources will depend on affordable telecommunications rates. This school system is committed to providing enhanced learning opportunities to our 60,000 students and 7,500 employees through the use of technology.

We need substantial and meaningful discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you to support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ed Rawlinson'.

Ed Rawlinson  
Superintendent

5900 Evers Road

San Antonio

Texas 78238

Tel: 210.706.8770

Fax: 210.706.8772



# National Council of Senior Citizens

1331 F Street, N.W. • Washington, DC 20004-1171 • (202) 624-9549 • FAX (202) 624-9547  
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 1200 • Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3314 • (301) 578-8800 • Fax (301) 578-8999

C-096-45

EX PARTE ORAL HEARING

President  
Harry Guenther  
Executive Director  
Steve Protulis

April 17, 1997

MAY 1 1997

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

Federal Communications Commission

Dear Chairman Hundt:

No other group of American consumers has as great a stake in the fair and efficient direction of telecommunications development than does the Nation's forty million senior citizens and their families. They want, need and deserve a telecommunications marketplace that will guarantee to them affordable access to the telecommunications systems in their communities.

While competition should lead to lower consumer costs, that competition must be tempered by clear public policy that assures universal service in every market at a price that will fit fixed incomes. Your pending decisions on rules regarding universal service and access charges are crucial to seniors.

NCSC supports FCC policies that will not destabilize local phone companies through unwise access charge changes. Those companies must remain competitive to underpin their ability to continue both affordable universal access and service improvements to household consumers.

Thank you for your interest in the needs of the Nation's seniors.

Sincerely,

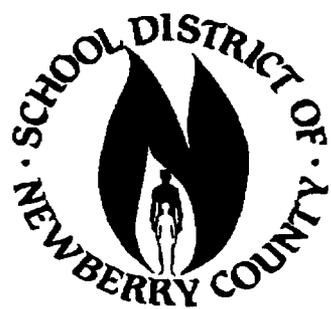
Steve Protulis  
Executive Director

cc: Commissioners Rachelle Chong, Susan Ness and James Quello

OPEIU 2 AFL-CIO

C/C 96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



April 17, 1997

REC-110

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C.

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

Dear Commissioner Chong:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

TEC Dowling  
District Superintendent

TECD:jwc



CC 96-45



# GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Groton, Connecticut

## Administration Offices

DUPLICATE FILED

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

April 16, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
WASHINGTON, DC

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

Dear Ms. Chong:

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.

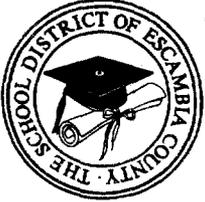
Please support the Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan for schools. Our school board has given our technology initiative a high priority - but the cost of telecommunications is considerable, and in some cases prohibitive, to school districts. This discount plan will 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



**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

215 West Garden Street P. O. Box 1470

Pensacola, Florida 32597 (904) 469-6155

CC 96-45

**Barbara Morris**  
Chairman  
District II

**Dr. Elmer Jenkins**  
Vice Chairman  
District III

April 18, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

**Jim C. Bailey**  
District IV

**Dr. John DeWitt**  
District IV

**Vanette Webb**  
District V

**Louis F. Ray, Jr.**  
Attorney

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

Dear Commissioner Chong:

As a School Board Member from Escambia County, Florida, I want to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

I am excited about the discount plan proposed by the Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board. I believe it 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. In Escambia County we have been struggling to keep up with the many needs of our students. We believe in the distance learning concept and would welcome your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

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

Sincerely,

Barbara Morris  
Member, District 2

BM:ljw

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

CC 96-45

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Dear Commissioner Chong,

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

As a teacher in the Enterprise School District, I am confronted daily with the need to direct my students' journey along the information highway. You can imagine how difficult this is without adequate classroom access to the technology. Affordable access is the only way schools will be able to assist students in understanding the use and application of such a valuable communications tool.

Students using the internet can download research or communicate with students in other schools, communities, and countries. When students create a web site or import information into their HyperCard stack they are learning not only how to access information, but how to organize it in a meaningful way. Students must know how to utilize these tools in order to be competitive in higher education, or successful in the work force which already has become highly dependent on this technology.

These internet connections, so vital to the education of our youth, will only be accessible to schools if the money to implement them is guaranteed by the Federal-State board decision and the Telecommunications Act. The \$2.25 Billion dollars in question could be the only insurance that many of our schools acquire the technology students deserve to move into the twenty first century.

Schools in our district, which is committed to providing adequate technological resources, are struggling to get "on-line". Resources are stretched thin and inadequate. Without these deep discounts, money that might be used to train teachers and provide maintenance support must be used for the technology itself. I am confident that your decision to help Americas' schools become technologically and globally competent in preparing our youth for the work force of the future by supporting the Joint boards discount plan for universal service to schools will be reflected by your vote to adopt the recommendations proposed.

Sincerely,



Pennie Saletta  
Enterprise School District  
Teacher and Language Arts Curriculum Chair

CC 96-48

# LOGAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

506 Holly Avenue, Box 477, Logan, West Virginia 25601 (304) 752-1550 Fax (304) 752-3711

**John D. Myers**  
**Superintendent**

EX PARTE / LATE FILED  
RECEIVED  
MAY 1 1997  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of General Counsel

Logan County  
Board of Education  
  
Don Steele, President  
Phyllis D. Adkins  
Paul Hardesty  
Robert J. Wolfe  
Greg Wooten

April 17, 1997

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

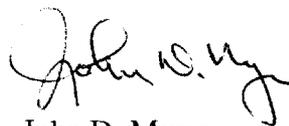
Dear Commissioner Chong:

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.

Respectfully yours,



John D. Myers  
Superintendent

JDM:jsb

CC 96-45

EX PARTE U.L.A.T.E. FILED  
RECEIVED  
MAY 1997  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am a Technology Coordinator from the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, located within the Pennsylvania Department of Education, 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.

Wilkes-Barre Area School District is in the state of chronic economic depression since the collapse of the coal industry in the 1950's. We have an aide ratio of .5610 with a student population of 7,421. In order for our children to compete, we need your help. It is vital that we place a higher level of technology into the hands of our children and teachers in order to level the playing field of achievement and help our students become more competitive.

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,



Charlotte C. Kordek  
25 South Grant Street  
Wilkes-Barre, Pa  
Tel (717) 820-3771  
Fax (717) 826- 7164