

West Allegheny School District

FINDLAY TOWNSHIP • NORTH FAYETTE TOWNSHIP • OAKDALE BOROUGH

EXHIBIT OR LATE FILED

April 23, 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

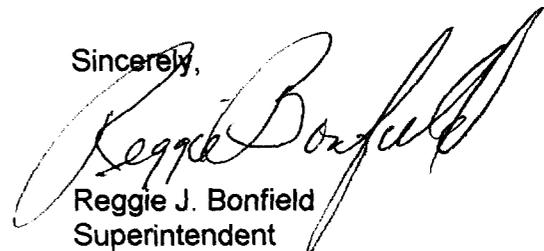
Dear Commissioner Hundt:

On May 8, 1997, when you vote on the FCC Federal State Joint Boards recommendation to provide significant discounts for all telecommunications services, including connections within each classroom, you will have the opportunity to guarantee that all students have an equal opportunity to benefit from our 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 businesses 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,



Reggie J. Bonfield
Superintendent

RJB:rs

FAX

Date: 04/25/97

Number of pages including cover sheet: 2

To:

Chairman Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications
Commission
1919 M St. NW Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

Phone:

Fax phone: 202-418-2801

CC:

From:

Sylvia B. Mason

Phone: 818-228-2030

Fax phone: 818-228-5220

REMARKS:

Urgent

For your review

Reply ASAP

Please comment

CC96-48

CareAmerica

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Via Facsimile

April 28, 1997

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Chairman Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

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 FER0, 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,

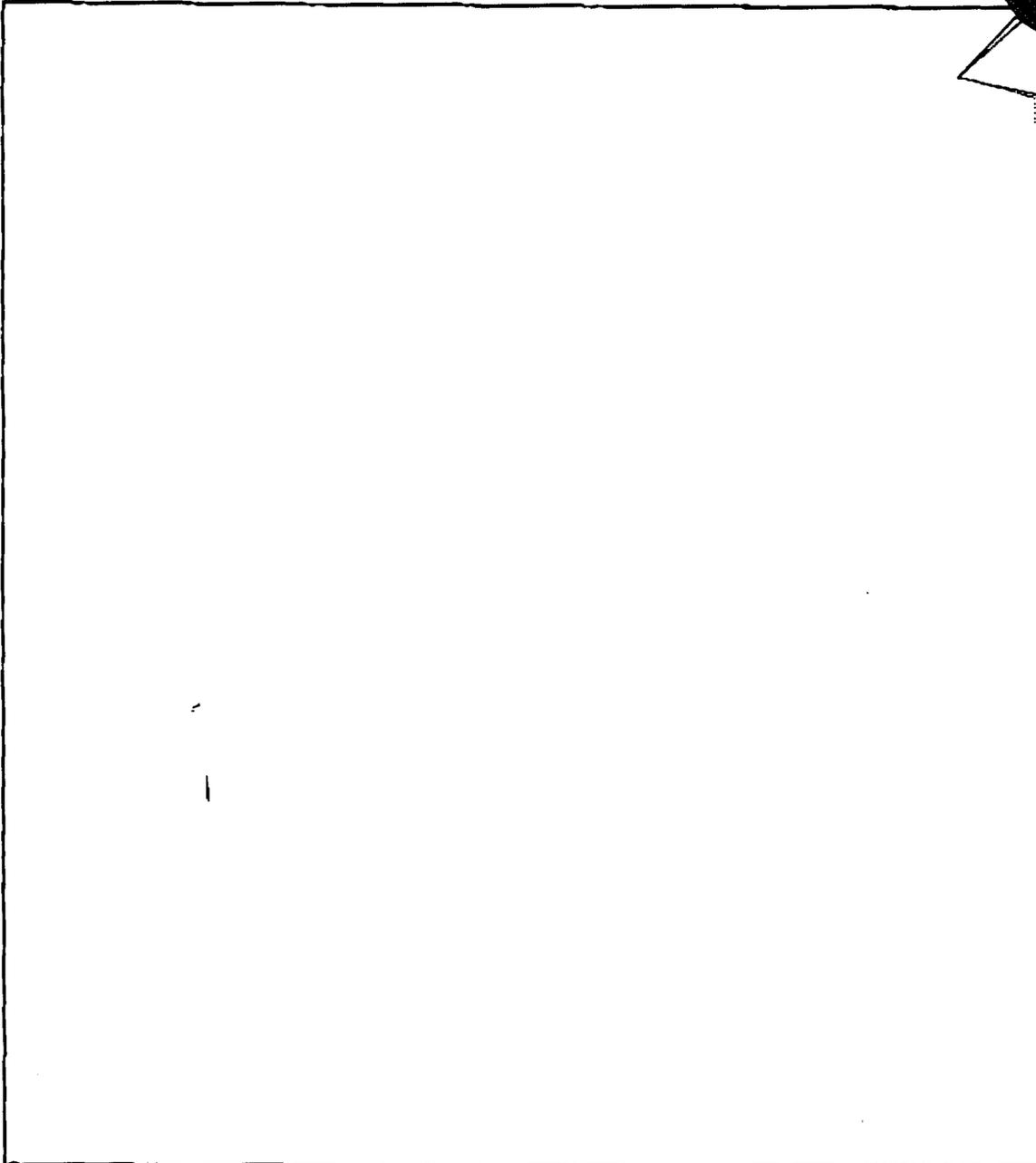


Sylvia Mason
Director, Telecommunications Services
CareAmerica Health Plans

cc: Robert White, President
Bob Steiger, CIO

FAX MEMO

SUBJECT:



To: <i>Reed Hundt</i>	From : <i>Susanne McVey</i>
For Information Call: 405-521-2502	At: Oklahoma Dept. of Libraries
Pages: <i>this + 1</i>	My Fax Number : 1-800-397-8116

CC 96-45

ROBERT L. CLARK, Jr.
DIRECTOR



FRANK HEATING
GOVERNOR

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES

April 28, 1997

RECEIVED

APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

There will be three librarians representing the state of Oklahoma at the American Library Association's Washington Legislative Day on May 5th-6th. We have scheduled meetings with our Congressional delegation on those days. One of our priority items to discuss with them will be the topic of universal service for schools and libraries. We would be very interested in meeting with members of your staff on Tuesday morning, May 6th to discuss the issue of universal service if that would be possible. We are free all morning but would prefer to meet in your offices early in the morning so that we can make our afternoon appointments with our Congressional delegation. We are, of course, willing to schedule a meeting to suit your staff's convenience.

The delegation of Oklahoma librarians would consist of:

- Debra Engel, Assistant Director of the Pioneer Library System
- Donna Morris, Assistant Director of the Metropolitan Library System
- Susan McVey, Deputy Director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (the state library)

Ms. Engel and Ms. Morris are the co-chairs of the Oklahoma Library Association's Legislative Committee. Ms. Engel has just been elected vice-president/president-elect of the Oklahoma Library Association. In addition, Ms. Engel's library system was one of the first in the nation to provide Internet access to the public. Their rural libraries have been modeling the type of access that I believe the FCC wants to accomplish with the universal service provisions of the 1996 Telecommunications Reform Act. Your staff might find their experiences to be of real interest in your planning. All three of us have been very active in the state proceedings concerning universal service at the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, our public utility regulatory body. We have just formed a coalition of libraries and schools in Oklahoma modeled on the national EdLiNK organization. You have asked for input from libraries regarding universal service. We see this proposed meeting as an opportunity to provide input from our state as to what is happening and what we would like to see happen. I would be glad to answer any questions you might have regarding this meeting. You may contact me at (405) 521-2502. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Susan C. McVey

Susan C. McVey
Deputy Director

Jenifer Elementary School

2820 Jenifer School Lane, Waldorf, Maryland 20603

FAX

Date:

4/28/97

Number of pages including cover sheet:

2

To:

Reed Hunt
Federal Comm. Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington DC 20554

Phone:

Fax phone: 202/418/2801

CC:

From:

Jenifer Elem.
2820 Jenifer School Lane
Waldorf, MD 20603

Phone:

301-932-9603 / 753-1768

Fax phone:

301-374-9496

REMARKS:

Urgent

For your review

Reply ASAP

Please comment

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 22, 1997

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

RECEIVED
APR 30 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Jennifer Elem.
WE are faculty and staff from *Charles County* in Maryland. We are writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries that have been recommended by the Joint Board.

We 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 Joint Board discount plan will guaranteed 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 discount is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marie Carter
Kathy Lutz
Connie Simpson
Lenora Bone
Jeanne Hinton
Duaria Censner

Brian Smith
Julie J. J. J.
Melanie H. Knapp
Jessie G. Williams
George M. Seales

April 22, 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

WE are faculty and staff from *Wm. B. Wade Elem.* in Maryland. We are writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries that have been recommended by the Joint Board.

We 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 Joint Board discount plan will guaranteed 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 discount is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peggy Cuniff
Naureen Golding
Stephanie Luyman
April Lee
Jennifer Collins
Virginia R. McGrath
Jennifer T. Tullitt
Archea Smith

DM
Bridget Johnson
Catherine Sokal
Keri Taylor
Yvonne W. Wynn
William D. Quaker
Belonda B. Fields
James S. Richard
Hugh A. Carter

FAX COVER SHEET

American Medical Association
Physicians dedicated to the health of America



AMA Division of Legislative Counsel
1101 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20005
Reply Fax Number (202) 789-7401

Date: 4-28-97

To: Reed Hundt

From: Curtis Rooney
Division of Legislative Counsel
Phone number: (202) 789-7423

Message:

Total number of pages including cover sheet

3

CC 96-48

RECEIVED

APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 28, 1997

Reed E. Hundt
Chair
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554-0001

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the physician groups listed below, which represent over 300,000 individual physicians from across the country, we are writing to urge you to support the full implementation of the "universal service" provisions of the "Telecommunications Act of 1996." As you know, the universal service provisions of the Act mandate the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to direct telecommunications rate subsidies to, among other groups, "rural health care providers." The law explicitly states that the FCC must make telecommunications rates for eligible health care providers and physicians comparable to telecommunications rates for similar services in both urban and rural areas. We strongly encourage you to immediately implement the so-called Snowe, Rockefeller, Exon, Kerrey provisions of the Act because we believe it to be important to the growth of telemedicine and would allow for greater access to health care services in rural and underserved areas.

The Act specifically mandates that telecommunications carriers provide telecommunications services to health care providers serving patients in rural areas at rates comparable to rates in urban areas. In addition, the FCC's own Advisory Committee on Telecommunications and Health Care has stated that the "discounted rate is critical to the success of rural telemedicine, and the comparable urban rate should eliminate differences in urban and rural rates created by distance." As Congress intended, we believe the definition of "rate" should be construed broadly.

Many dedicated physicians and health care professionals provide essential medical services in small private offices, often in remote and isolated areas across the country. In order to be able to continue to provide quality health care services, individuals practicing in rural areas must often pay excessively high long-distance charges just to be able to access Internet and other telecommunications services. The ability to access these and many other services at affordable rate would allow physicians and health care providers to deliver the best health services possible.

2

We urge you to support the "universal access" provisions of the Act because we believe that these provisions are fair and would improve the quality of health services in many needed areas of the United States.

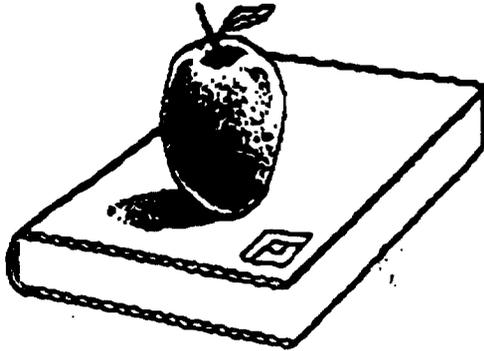
Sincerely,

American College of Radiology

American Medical Association

cc: James H. Quello, Rachelle B. Chong, Susan Ness, Regina M. Keeney

FAX COVER SHEET

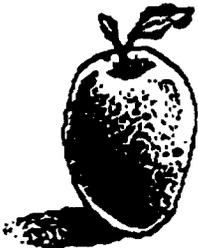


TO: The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman

COMPANY: FCC

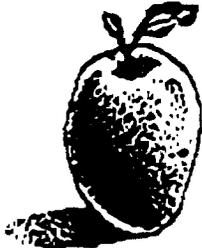
LOCATION: Washington, DC

FAX NUMBER: 202 418-2801



FROM: Linda Connell / Fay Boie

JOB TITLE: Media Specialist / Technology Coord.



PEACH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

523 VINEVILLE STREET

P.O. BOX 1018

FORT VALLEY, GEORGIA 31030

FAX NUMBER: 912/825-9970

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 912/825-5933



NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER) 2

COMMENTS



Thank you for listening to our opinions
and ideas. We appreciate what you are
doing

CC 96-45

FORT VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL



VIRGINIA J. DIXON, PRINCIPAL



**814 PEGGY DRIVE
FORT VALLEY, GEORGIA 31030
912/825-2413**

**MRS. WOODY FREEMAN
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
INSTRUCTIONAL COORDINATOR**

**MRS. BETTY BINEBAST
MRS. PAMELA CHAMBERS
GOLF COURSE COORDINATOR**

RECEIVED

April 25, 1997 EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear FCC Commissioner and Chairman,

Thank you for giving Fort Valley Middle School the opportunity to be included on reduced prices for Internet Access. We are very interested in connecting classrooms as well as the Media center to the Internet. Anything you can do to implement the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for schools and libraries would be greatly appreciated.

The Internet has the power to energize students and increase their love of learning, while helping teachers and students reach educational goals faster and more efficiently. Technology is changing education and exciting teachers and students in ways never imagined.

Thank you for helping with funding of connecting schools with the Internet. Our partnership can turn students on to learning.

Respectfully,

Linda Connell

Linda Connell
Media Specialist

LC/ap

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



Reorganized School District No. 7

600 S.E. Miller Street
Lee's Summit, Missouri 64063-4297
(816) 524-3368 • FAX (816) 524-0629

Office of Director of Technology

RECEIVED

APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 16, 1997

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

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

As the Superintendent of Schools of the Lee's Summit R-7 School District, I would like to thank you for your continued support for affordable Internet access for all students.

As you know The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that all schools, regardless of each district's financial resources, will have the opportunity to access the Internet and utilize distance-learning to supplement and/or enrich their curriculum. The \$2.25 billion a year funding from the Universal Service Fund will address the needs of all our schools, and, most importantly, will bring services directly into the classroom, thus impacting all students. The inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital for schools to prepare the workforce of tomorrow.

As the Superintendent of a growing district, we constantly struggle with parity issues between our old (pre-1950) buildings and our new buildings (two new elementary schools are currently under construction). The availability of deep discounts for telecommunications services this year can make it possible for us to deliver state-of-the-art technology to all of our buildings. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Tony L. Stansberry, Ph.D.
Superintendent

TLS/cmp

Merced County Office of Education
Ronald Tiffie, Superintendent



An Affirmative Action/
Equal Opportunity Employer

April 24, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILE RECEIVED

APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

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

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am writing to you regarding the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected school board member from the Merced County Office of Education, 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 services for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

SYBIL CROOKHAM, Chairperson
Merced County Board of Education

SC:eem

CC 96-45

RECEIVED

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

L'ANSE AREA SCHOOL/PUBLIC LIBRARY
201 NORTH FOURTH STREET
L'ANSE, MICHIGAN 49946-1499

Bill A. Bennett, Librarian
e-mail bbennett@up.net
Rose VanWagner, Assistant Librarian
e-mail rvan@up.net

Telephone (906) 524-6213
Fax (906) 524-5331
TDD (906) 524-6213

April 24, 1997

RECEIVED

APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to urge you to keep the universal service fund of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 at the 2.25 billion dollar level as recommended by the Joint Federal-State Universal Service Board. As electronic media have become more and more vital to the delivery of information in schools and libraries, a much larger portion of our budgets must be spend on telecommunications costs and Internet access. A discount of from 20 to 90 percent will allow us to better afford this access in the library and school classrooms.

Please do everything possible to keep funding at the recommended level of 2.25 billion.

Sincerely,

Bill A. Bennett

Bill A. Bennett, Librarian

c: Congressman Bart Stupak

THE LAMPHERE SCHOOLS

ADMINISTRATION CENTER

31201 Dorchester
Madison Heights, Michigan 48071-1099
Telephone: (810) 589-1990
FAX: (810) 589-2618

JAMES S. McCANN
Superintendent

GEORGE JESKO
Deputy Superintendent



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

THOMAS M. TADAJEWSKI
Associate Superintendent for Business

T.C. ROEKLE
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

RECEIVED

APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 25, 1997

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

RE: CC Docket NO. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am a School Board Trustee from The Lamphere Schools and I would like to thank you for your dedication to ensure that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

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

Sincerely,

Donald J. Nagel
School Board Trustee

DJN:jo

CC: 96-45



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 24, 1997

Chairman Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW Room 814
Washington DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt,

In Reference to: Ex Parte contact in CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 96-262.

It has come to our attention that the FCC is considering a 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 extending new telecommunications capabilities to schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. Concurrently, while the FCC is considering imposing these new costs on American businesses and adjusted costs to residential telephone users, we understand the Commission will not take the long overdue step of bringing rates closer to the true economic cost of local access services.

We 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 business of the people's representatives, not appointed officials. In addition, nationwide educational and health care initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all interested authorities, not just the telecommunications matter by the FCC.

It is time for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges, which amount to 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,

Janna L. Harvey

Janna L. Harvey
Director Telecommunications

Facsimile Cover Sheet

To: Chairman Reed E. Hundt
Company: FCC
Phone:
Fax: 202 418-2801

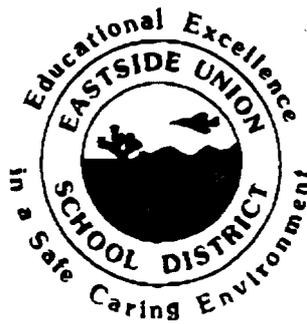
From: Janna L. Harvey
Company: Stevens Hospital
Phone: 206-640-4401
Fax: 206-640-4450

Date: 04/24/97
**Pages including this
cover page:** 2

Comments: Thank you for your time.

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE _____

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

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
FAX #202-418-2801
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to you in regard to the Federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Rate Program. I am a locally elected school board member from the Eastside Union 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 most importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classroom 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 implementation of discounts on internal classroom connections should not be eliminated nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure 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 requiring the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Board of Trustees
Eastside Union School District

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List ABCDE

CC: 96-45

LOUISIANA HYDROELECTRIC

LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

Administrative Office
409 Texas Street
via Telefax

Vidalia, Louisiana 71373-3320
April 24, 1997

(318) 336-9666
Fax (318) 336-9062

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

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

APR 30 1997

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

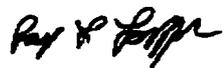
I am a businessman from Vidalia, Louisiana and Concordia Parish, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. As an active partner in education with the Concordia Parish School District, which is located within the Macon Ridge Economic Development enterprise zone, we are vitally interested in raising the standard of education within our rural school district through technology. Without continued improvements in our local labor force, we will not be able to contact industries and create stable job opportunities for our area.

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

Monies available from these access discounts would be used specifically to improve physical technical facilities and the training for our dedicated 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.

Sincerely,



Ralph L. Laukhuff, Jr.
Executive Vice-President
Chief Operating Officer

RLLJr/sm

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

CC: 96-45



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT 18
Franklin School District - Hill School District



119 Central Street
Franklin, New Hampshire 03235
(603) 934-3108 • FAX (603) 934-3462

SUPERINTENDENT
Edgar R. Melanson

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
Kathleen T. Bateson

READING SUPERVISOR
TITLE I DIRECTOR
Jacqueline Verville, Ed. D.

DIRECTOR OF
SPECIAL EDUCATION
Michael Hoyt

FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR
Joan Hinds

FAMILY LITERACY
COORDINATOR
Connie Brown

SUPERVISOR OF BUILDINGS
& GROUNDS
Roger Hutchinson

FRANKLIN SCHOOLS:

PAUL A. SMITH
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Principal: Wilbur Roberge, Ed.D.

BESSIE C. ROWELL
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Principal: Sheril Polisner

FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL
Principal: Barry Albert
Ass't. to the Principal:
Alan Davis

FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL
Principal: Robert Retchless, Ed.D.
Ass't. Principal: Wm. Athanas

HILL SCHOOL:

JENNIE D. BLAKE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Principal: Sally Fisher

April 24, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

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

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

The Franklin School District is one of the poorest school districts in New Hampshire. Presently, we have no Internet connections because we cannot afford telephone lines and the internal wiring. Obviously, we have no wiring or computer connections within classrooms for networking in any of our five schools. We are only able to obtain dated computers of the 286, 386 and Macintosh Classic vintage, as well as other used technologies.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Edgar R. Melanson
Superintendent of Schools

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CC: 96-45

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

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APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretariat

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program." I am an employee of the Lassen County Office of Education 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,

James Hall

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Sincerely,

Gwen Pacheco

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Sincerely,

Linda L. Smith

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