

CC: 96-45

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

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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,



No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

1



EPI TOPE

April 24, 1997

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20541

EpiTope Inc.
8505 SW Creekside Place
Beaverton, Oregon 97005
503 641 6115
Fax: 503.643.2781

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

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,

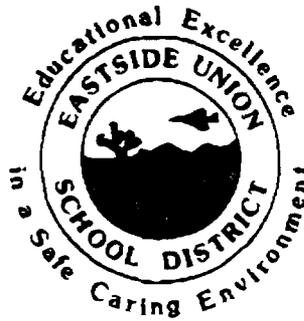
Michael L. Dunton
Information and Telecommunication Systems Manager

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

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1

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

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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

1

CC: 96-45



Contra Costa County Board of Education
Contra Costa County Office of Education

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

77 Santa Barbara Road • Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 • (510) 942-3380

April 24, 1997

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

Post-It* Fax Note	7671	Date	4/24/97	# of pages	1
To	HON. REED HUNDT	From	PAMELA MIRABELLA		
Co./Dept.	FCC	Co.	C.C.C. OFFICE OF ED.		
Phone #	202/418-1000	Phone #	(510) 942-3380		
Fax #	202/418-2801	Fax #	REGISTRATION 875		

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

APR 30 1997

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

I am writing to you in regard to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected school board member from the Contra Costa 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 disparately 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,

Pamela Mirabella, President
Contra Costa County Board of Education

PM:ldh

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



Bozeman Public Schools

404 West Main, PO Box 520
Bozeman, MT 59771-0520
Voice: (406)585-1500
Fax: (406)585-1504

Steven D. Johnson
Assistant Superintendent
Business and Operations
Extension 1508

Suzanne Becker
Accounting
Extension 1506

Connie Campbell
Transportation
Extension 1508

Christine Day
Information Systems
Extension 1560

Gary J. Griffith
Maintenance Supervisor
Extension 1540

Sara G. Walker
Payroll and Benefits
Extension 1507

Robert Burrows
Support Services Supervisor
Support Services Building
501 North 11th
(406) 585-1675
Extension 1562

April 23, 1997

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

SUBJECT: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am the Media/Technology supervisor of Bozeman Public Schools and was fortunate to hear your address to the EDLINC session on February 24, 1997. It was comforting to see first-hand that you understand the need for technology in the classrooms to prepare our students to be the workforce of tomorrow.

We are fortunate to have direct internet access to all eleven of our schools. Our community, administrators and school board recognize the importance of technology and long distance learning. Within five years we plan to have all of our classrooms networked. Internal cabling has been very expensive so far. We have received some volunteer labor, but the majority of the interior cabling is contracted out at great expense. The inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is essential.

We have voice mail and e-mail available to all of our teachers for better communication in the district and the community. We also have home pages for our district and each of our schools. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision to ensure this access at a discounted rate for all schools is a necessity, especially in low population states such as Montana.

The \$2.25 billion a year will enable more classrooms to get connected, bringing unlimited resources to students. We are currently spending \$64,938 per year for our telephone and data communication leased lines. With the addition of E-rate discounts, we will be able to use the savings for technology training and classroom equipment. It is also imperative to have cable TV and satellite services to be included in the discount.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christine Day
Media/Technology Supervisor
Bozeman School District #7

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APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

APRIL 24, 1997

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

CC: Docket No. 9645

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APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Consumer Affairs

Dear Chairman Hundt,

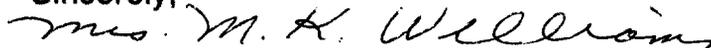
I write in strong support of all affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act last year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

Catholic schools are excluded from most local/state funded initiatives for purchase of technology hardware and are significantly disadvantaged to begin with. National education surveys indicate that Catholic school classroom access to computers and connectivity is at least 59% behind that of its public school counterparts. Integrating technology into the curriculum requires advanced telecommunications services and access for all classrooms.

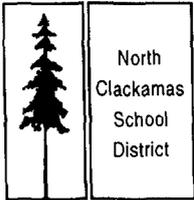
Holy Trinity School is eager to go forward the 21st century. We recognize technology as an essential part of life-long learning in our ever-expanding and ever-changing global environment. We want to make use of the most effective technology available to facilitate student interest and motivation as well as accommodating all learning styles of individual students. This cannot be accomplished without the help of local/state funding to Catholic schools.

I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. I also strongly urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and lifelong learner in America.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Mary K. Williams
Principal



Ron Naso
Superintendent

NORTH CLACKAMAS SCHOOL DISTRICT 12

4444 S.E. Lake Road · Milwaukie, Oregon 97222-4799 · (503) 653-3601

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 25, 1997

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

RECEIVED

APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

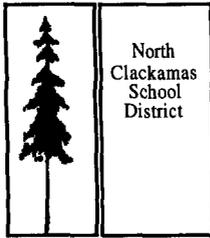
As Superintendent of Schools for North Clackamas School District, I urge you to fully support the universal service plan of the Joint Board. We are active users of the Internet in all of our schools although we do not yet have service to every classroom in the District. We are also extensively involved in distance learning delivering health occupation and other classes to classrooms in rural Oregon. Expansion of both of these efforts would be greatly advanced with discounted telecommunications costs that include classroom connections as well as lower communications line costs.

Schools across the State of Oregon are facing serious funding challenges while trying to deliver high quality educational programs. Discounted telecommunications rates will not only allow school districts to leverage resources, they will help all of us to deliver a better educational experience to our students.

Thank you for your support of affordable access to Information Superhighway resources by our nations's students.

Sincerely,

Ronald Naso
Superintendent



**North Clackamas School District
Technology and Information Services**

14211 SE Johnson Rd • Milwaukie OR 97267 • 503/653-3827

Blair Loudat, Director

RECEIVED EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

APR 30 1997

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

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

As the Director of Technology and Information Services for North Clackamas School District I deeply appreciate your interest in making access to the Internet and distance learning more affordable for schools and libraries through the Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan.

North Clackamas School District is proud that each school in our district has access to the Internet. However, due to continued funding and operating cost issues in the State of Oregon and in this school district, completion of our plan to bring the Internet to every classroom in the District is in serious jeopardy. Your full support of the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools that includes inside wiring will help us to realize our plans for the full integration of technology and world-wide resources into classroom teaching.

Thank you for your effort on behalf of student's across the country.

Sincerely,

N. Blair Loudat

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
VYONNE MORAN, VICE-CHAIR
(406) 258-6420

CC 96-45

April 23, 1997

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

EX PART OR LATE FILED
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APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C.

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



Burlingame School District

2303 Trousdale Drive
Burlingame, CA 94010
Telephone [415] 259-3800
Fax [415] 259-3820

April 23, 1997

Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
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 regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected school board member from the Burlingame School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country, and more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

M.1 97.8

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Board of Trustees

Mrs. Jean Fiske
Mr. Steven Glick
Mrs. Laurie Hoffman
Mrs. Mary Peros
Mrs. Lisa Rosenthal

MR. ROBERT E. BEUTHEL
SUPERINTENDENT

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APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RR 1 Box 285
Houtzdale PA 16651
April 22, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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

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APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of General Counsel

RE: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a Technology Coordinator from Moshannon Valley School District, and I am concerned that students from rural districts like ours will be left behind on the Information Superhighway. I understand that you have been working toward the goal of ensuring that all school districts will have affordable access to this Information Superhighway. I laud your efforts and ask for your continued support.

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.

We are a poor district that is large in area and located a distance from most telecommunication nodes. This means that our costs are greater than areas located close to a node. It also means our students are more isolated both geographically and culturally. Having access to the Internet will give our students an opportunity to interact on a global basis. If rates are low enough, it will also give us the opportunity to link the school with homes in the area giving parents access to up-to-date schedules, homework information and easy communication with teachers.

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

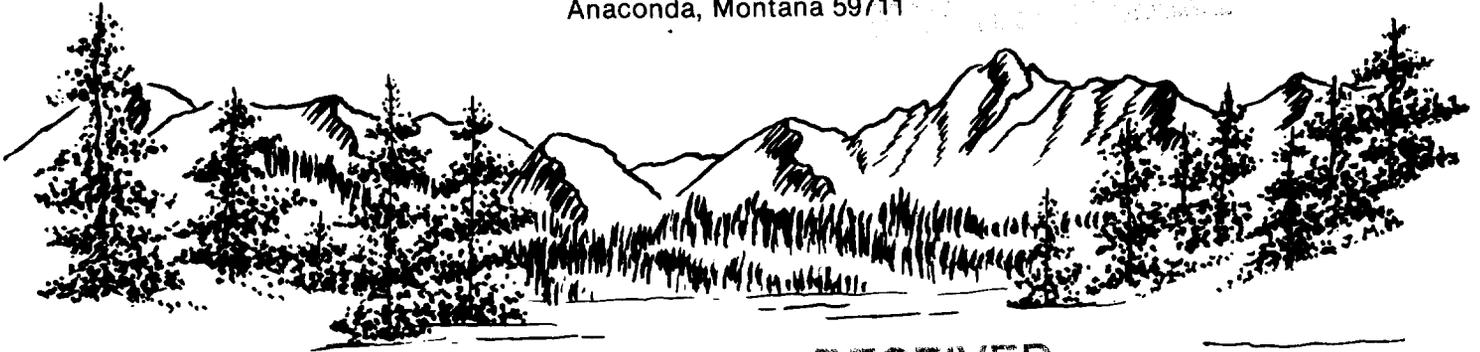
Thank you.

Sincerely,



Stephen M. Belin

ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
Courtthouse - 800 South Main
Anaconda, Montana 59711



Superintendent of Schools

RECEIVED

Telephone (406)563-8421
Ext. 248

APR 30 1997

April 23, 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commission Members:

I am the County Superintendent of Schools for Deer Lodge County in Montana, and I would like to thank each of you for your efforts to ensure that school districts and educational consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. In rural areas such as ours access to the Information Superhighway connects our students to people and experiences they would not otherwise access.

Our schools in Deer Lodge County have made tremendous strides in introducing technology into classrooms and making computer connected information sources available to every student. However, the increasing costs of these services in a time when school funding is critical makes the continuation of these services precarious at best.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that our school districts will continue to have opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning experiences to our students. The \$2.25 billion per year will address the needs of all schools, and continue efforts to bring these services directly in the classroom where students learn. Including discounts for internal classroom connections needs to remain a corner stone of this plan and this plan is essential to the adequate preparation of tomorrow's work force.

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 to schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. O'Rourke", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael O'Rourke MEd, LCPC
County Superintendent of Schools

MIDDLE GEORGIA REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY

P. O. Box 1148
FORT VALLEY, GEORGIA 31030

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

PHONE: (912) 825-3132

DR. JACKIE G. STINCHCOMB, DIRECTOR

FAX: (912) 825-8248

April 25, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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APR 30 1997

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

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt,

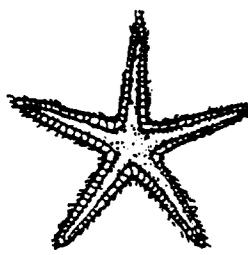
I am the director of a regional educational agency in the Middle Georgia area. In the rural areas that my agency serves, it is imperative that students have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

Our school systems need discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the discount plan for universal service for schools.

Sincerely,

Jackie Stinchcomb

0096-45



BROAD RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Rt. 3, Box 357
Beaufort, SC 29902
(803) 525-4300

Melissa Patterson-Sheppard
Principal

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Mark Mansell
Assistant Principal

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APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. Room 814
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 Broad River Elementary School:

MPSheppard	M. Mansell	Chavez	Chunley
Lynn Patten	Al-Sambis Weisner		
Patsy Bishop	Shikell H. Baldwin	Christina Melancon	
Mary King	Mrs. Myra M. Parker	Sonya S. Bradley	
Vanessa	Gayle O. Holliday	Beverly Thomas	

Jeanie Mitchell
Gary R. Rakstraw
Gina Hank
Maie Heaton
Karen Patterson
Patricia D. Holt
Rose Mary Williams
Barbara P. Day
Beverly White
Dianne Capen
James Bekker
Maie Blake

Palmdale School District

ROY R. MARYOTT EDUCATION CENTER
39139-49 NORTH TENTH STREET EAST
PALMDALE, CALIFORNIA 93550

PHONE (805) 947-7191
FAX (805) 272-0515

April 22, 1997

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APR 30 1997

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

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

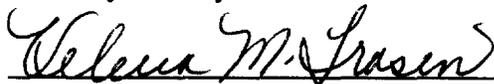
Dear Commissioner Hundt:

As locally elected trustees of the Palmdale School District, we wish to indicate to you our strong support for the proposed \$2.25 billion "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee all schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to tap into other distance-learning opportunities. The plan will bring telecommunications directly to the classrooms, where they can have a greater impact on students. The inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the Universal Service Fund be reduced.

We urge you and the FCC Commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board.

Thank you for your consideration.



Velma M. Trosin, Board President

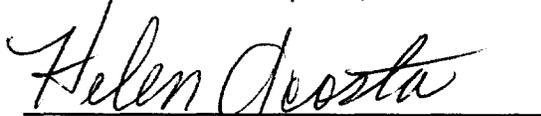


Sheldon Epstein, Board Member


Frederick C. Thompson, Board Clerk



Larry Logsdon, Board Member


Helen Acosta, Board Member



BUENA PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

6885 ORANGETHORPE AVE. • BUENA PARK, CA 90620-1398 • (714) 522-8412 • FAX (714) 994-1506

April 22, 1997

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EX PART E OR LATE FILED APR 30 1997

Commissioner Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room #814
Washington, D.C. 20554
RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

GOVERNING BOARD
Lloyd G. Davis
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Clerk/President Pro Tem
Mary Fuhrman
Member
B. Buck Levine
Member
Lori Nielsen
Member

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

Carol Holmes Riley, Ed.D.
Superintendent
George Cottrell, Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent,
Administrative Services
Cindy M. Stewart, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent,
Educational Services and
Certificated Personnel

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally-elected school board member from Buena Park School District and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country, and more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

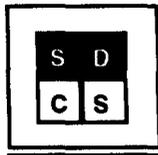
Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Mary Fuhrman
Govenring Board Member

MF/jm

CC96-45



**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS**

EDUCATION CENTER • 4100 Normal Street, San Diego, California 92103-2682

(619) 293-8056
FAX (619) 297-5624

RON OTTINGER
President

April 24, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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APR 30 1997

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

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As President of the Board of Education, San Diego Unified School District, I am writing to strongly urge you to support the Joint Federal-State Universal Service Board recommendation to establish an education rate (e-rate) for public schools and libraries.

Because this district believes strongly that providing all students equal access to technology is important in public education we have committed significant resources from our general education fund to wire schools to enable them to connect to the Internet and are attempting to provide classrooms the necessary hardware. The district has already applied for and has received a California Public Utilities Commission discount rate provided for data and voice lines for state public schools, which gives a slightly more than 50 percent savings over regular rates. This provides the district a considerable savings in utility bills, dollars that come directly out of the regular education program. At this time there are no additional district funds set aside for the further expansion of technology in our schools. As a large urban school technology provider we will only be able to provide Internet access in all classrooms through the availability of further utility discounts.

At this time all of our 160 schools and sites are connected to a Wide Area Network and have access to the Internet. We are working toward wiring and equipping all classrooms. The e-rate will go a long way towards making equity possible and we strongly support its implementation as recommended by the Joint Federal-State Universal Service Board.

Your vote of support on this issue when it comes before you next month would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ron Ottinger
President
Board of Education

RO:mer



WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

1108 Bissell Avenue
Richmond, CA 94801-3135

Herbert M. Cole, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Telephone: (510) 620-2205
FAX (510) 236-6784

April 21, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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

RECEIVED

APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to you regarding the Federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally-elected school board member from the West Contra Costa Unified School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country; and, more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue, and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diana Easton".

Diana Easton, Clerk
Board of Education

DE:cl

(DE.12)

Learning
Resources
Center

Punxsutawney Area School District
North Findley St. Punxsutawney, PA 15767 (814) 938-5151

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APR 30 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 21, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

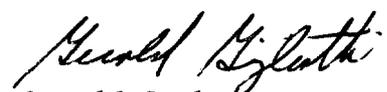
As Director of Learning Resources for our rural school district in central-western Pennsylvania, I would like to thank you for your efforts in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. Since our schools are located thirty miles from the nearest academic library of any size (Indiana University of Pennsylvania), it is imperative that our students have a way to obtain the necessary information for research, class projects, and personal growth and development in terms of career objectives and higher education. Thus, we have been doing as much as we can to keep up with technology—a hard task considering the expense and lack of financial resources with which we must deal as a reality of operating a school system.

Although grant funding has made it possible for us to obtain some computers, software, and essential networking hardware, it is imperative that we have an economical way of utilizing the Internet and World Wide Web so our students can gain maximum benefit from having access to technology.

The Telecommunications Act and Federal-State Joint Board Discount Plan will guarantee that our district, which in many ways, is disadvantaged, will have the opportunity to bring services to our classrooms where our students are learning. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to our young people's future.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services as soon as possible. My colleagues and I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal services for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,



Gerald Gigliotti,
Director, Learning Resources



Jim Ray, Ph. D.
Superintendent

Spartanburg County School District Three

Post Office Box 267 • Glendale, South Carolina 29346 • (864) 579-8000

Share The Pride

April 23, 1997

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

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am Superintendent of Spartanburg County School District Three, 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.

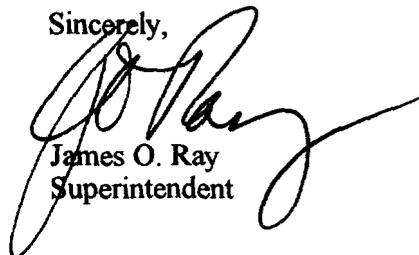
The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and importantly, the plan will 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.

The E-rate discounts will give our district the opportunity to take advantage of this vast and far-reaching tool called the Internet. Our students, teachers, and surrounding community will benefit in so many ways that this letter can only scratch the surface. Students can gain instant access to the knowledge base of not only our local colleges like Wofford but distant universities like Harvard. Students and teachers will be able to consult with other students, teachers and professionals from around the world. Teachers will be able to enrich their lesson plans with so many resources that it is really not comprehensible. Teachers will send E-mail to parents about their child's achievements and areas for improvement every day if necessary. A new avenue of communication will be created between the district and the community through E-mail and World Wide Web pages. This will allow the district to keep parents and community members better informed about policies and happenings in the district. Hopefully this will create a feeling of ownership within the surrounding community so that our district may benefit from more community participation. The opportunities created by Internet access are really only limited by the imagination of those who use it.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,



James O. Ray
Superintendent

JOR/jt

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APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Eliot Strommen, Trustee
Ron Stoneberg, Trustee
Scott Aberg, Trustee
Teresa Jones, Trustee
Samuel Ohlson, Trustee

Jim Germann, Supt.
Dora-Jean Beil, Clerk



HINSDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PHONE (406) 364-2314
FAX: (406) 364-2205

DISTRICT 7a-7C
P.O. Box 398 • 600 North Montana

HINSDALE, MONTANA 59241

April 24, 1997

EX HANTE OR LATE FILED

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

RECEIVED

APR 30 1997

Federal Communication Commission
Washington, D.C.

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As superintendent of school in Hinsdale Montana, I would like to thank you for your support of education. We are a rural school that depends greatly on our access to the internet. Currently, the local REA is proposing a \$2000 a year cost for internet access over our existing fiber optic line that would allow access for up to twelve computers at a time. Currently, we are running two copper lines into the school for our computer modems, but this limits us to two computers on-line at a time. We need financial help to open the internet for all students

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. Last year, we installed a distance learning lab that will cost \$8000 a year for line charges. These charges are hurting our small school. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and enable us to continue expanding our internet and distance learning access. We would be able to apply the discounts to our electronic access utilizing the fiber optic line.

The students in Hinsdale utilize e-mail and the internet daily. We are teaching our students how to utilize electronic communications in all classes. I urge the FCC to support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

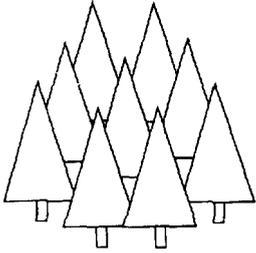
Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Germann".

Jim Germann

"Home of the Raiders"



WHERE KNOWLEDGE GROWS

SYLVAN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

605 Sylvan Avenue • Modesto, California 95350 • (209) 574-5000 • FAX (209) 524-2672

April 24, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

MICHAEL W. SIBITZ
Superintendent

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

RE: CC DOCKET NO. 96-45

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MARGERY NEDER
President

CYNTHIA LINDSEY
Clerk

MARSHA B. WAGGONER
Member

GARY R. VANCE
Member

STEPHEN L. STROUD
Member

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected school board member from Sylvan Union School District, Modesto, California, 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,

Margery Neder, President
Board of Trustees



CONFIDENTIAL

400 Pearman Dairy Road
Post Office Drawer 439
Anderson, South Carolina 29622
(803) 260-5000

An Equal Opportunity Employer

April 24, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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

RECEIVED

APR 30 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am the superintendent of Anderson School District Five, 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.

Anderson School District Five is currently in the process of developing networking access for up to seven computers into all classrooms in our school district, which will be completed during the summer of 1997. During the 1997-98 school year, we hope to get at least three computers into each of our elementary classrooms (approximately 260 classrooms). Since we also have a wide area network (WAN) that these computers will have access to, we will need to add more bandwidth so that our students will have access to the Internet and distance-learning opportunities as the computers into the classrooms are brought online.

Anderson School District Five would be able to take these funds and use them to add additional telecommunication services to our existing system by:

1. The leasing of more T1 facilities to give needed bandwidth and speed to the classroom in each of our 15 schools over our wide area network (WAN).
2. The purchase of the necessary routing equipment for those new services to connect those additional T1 facilities to our WAN.