

96-45

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2237 Saratoga Drive  
Findlay, Ohio 45840  
April 28, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Mr. Reed E. Hunt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N W  
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: Ex Parte Communications in CC Docket No. 96-262

Dear Mr. Reed,

The purpose of my letter is to register my very strong opposition to the proposed FCC regulations concerning multi-line users. While your goal of wiring public schools, libraries and rural health care agencies to the Internet is noble, the \$3 billion cost should not be directed to businesses. Instead local authorities or school districts should pursue this if they deem it to be necessary. The proposed regulations are essentially a social program that has never ever been brought to the voters.

I have written my Senators and Congressman as well to ensure that they are aware of my strong opposition to these proposed regulations. I sincerely hope that you will seriously consider abandoning these very costly regulations that the consumers of goods and services will ultimately have to pay.

Sincerely,

*Richard F. Giroux*  
Richard F. Giroux

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**Payless Cashways, Inc.**

We work to make your job easier™

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PAYLESS CASHWAYS  
FURROW  
LUMBERJACK  
HUGH M. WOODS  
SOMERVILLE LUMBER  
KNOX IIMRFR

RECEIVED

MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554

May 1, 1997

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

Re: ExParte Communication in DCC Docket No. 96-262

Dear Chairman Reed E. Hundt:

I am writing to express Payless Cashways Inc 's concern about the possible Federal Communications Commission action which could substantially raise our telephone bills. Our information is that the Commission will vote May 6 on, among other things, the imposition of a "Fair and Equitable Rate Charge" of \$4.50 per month beginning this coming January, which would increase to \$6.00 per month next year, and the increase of the local exchange company's "Subscriber Line Charge" of \$3.50, to be used to wire schools and libraries for the Internet.

We do not question the wisdom of wiring schools and libraries, and we had no objection to its inclusion in the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Rather, we question the manner in which this new charge is to be levied, and the fact that the Commission has to our knowledge not determined how the money might best be distributed. Reliable studies have shown that business customers are already overcharged significantly by their local telephone companies, and we wonder why that money would not be used to accomplish the worthy goal of wiring schools and libraries.

If these charges are instituted, the impact on us would be substantial, because Payless Cashways Inc. has 4180 telephone lines, resulting in yearly surcharges of \$403,440.00. We consider this surcharge to be unduly burdensome, and we cannot imagine that this charge reflects the intent of Congress when it acted to bring advanced technology to America's classrooms.

We ask you to consider the effect that such a proposal would have on retailers, who are increasingly reliant on telecommunications in the routine management of their business. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Stanton  
President and COO  
Payless Cashways Inc.

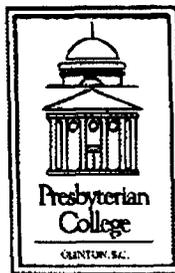
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May 1, 1997

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MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

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

via FAX 202-418-2801

RE: Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Presbyterian College is greatly concerned by reports of possible increases in the cap on business multi-line Subscriber Line Charges (SLC) and pre-subscribed lines (PSL) surcharges. One report indicated the possibility of an increase of \$8.00 per month charge for each business line including each Centrex line. Such a charge, depending on how implemented, could cost Presbyterian College more than \$8,000.00 per month: the equivalent of more than five full scholarships including tuition, fees, room, and board. Or, looking at it another way, this would represent an increase of almost 33% in our local telephone service bill.

We certainly hope that the commission rejects any such ideas.

The provision of discounted telecommunications services for K-12 schools, libraries, and rural health facilities may be a worthwhile public policy goal but if so it should be funded directly by Congress, not in this manner.

Presbyterian College is certainly not alone among institutions of higher education using Centrex services. Any proposal that increases fees for businesses also affects colleges, universities, and other non profits which must purchase business telephone services.

Thank you for considering our position on this matter. Once again we hope that discounted telecommunication services for K-12 schools, libraries, and rural health facilities would not be subsidized through increases in business telephone fees that feed the Universal Service Fund.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Morris M. Galloway Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Morris M. Galloway Jr.  
 Dean of Administrative Services

MMG:jwc

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Boston University

Office of Telecommunications  
25 Buick Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02215  
Tel: 617/353-2097  
Fax: 617/353-2053



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A Unit of Information Technology

April 29, 1997

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

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MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Regarding ExParte Communications in CC Docket No. 96-262

Dear Commissioner Hundt,

I have become aware of your proposal to fund the new USF and the associated initiative to wire America's schools and libraries to the internet. It is alarming! I have calculated the budget impact next fiscal year to be approximately \$1,200,000 due to this proposal. This will obviously have grave impacts on this budget and amongst other things, would probably curtail our efforts to wire our own dorms.

Apparently, your proposal would create new interstate charges (FERC) of \$4.50 per line per month and raise the subscriber line charge (SLC) from a cap of \$6.00 to \$9.50. While I understand carriers would provide some flow because of lower pre minute access charges, this would have a positive impact of only \$50,000 a year or .004% of the total increase. Hardly an off-set. Last year we were promised lower rates; what happened along the way and how does it make sense to generate about a \$3 billion dollar fund solely from non-carrier businesses, which is virtually a new tax on our communications lines: What about the excessive "subsidies" still going to LEC accounts which translate into higher profits for them? Why is it that so suddenly - this proposal surfaces, which will obviously have serious negative impact on American business?

I do not see in the proposal any treatment of Centrex lines being treated the same way as PBX's by using a PBX-equivalent formula. The effect of this is that Boston University would be paying 85% more than a university across the river who has the same switch but because it sits on their premises they would only pay 15% (the trunk equivalency) of what Boston University pays. It doesn't make sense. Also, if the proposal were to treat student lines as business lines, the effect to BU would cost us an additional 40% of \$1,200,000.

Please reconsider this proposal. While I admire your ambitiousness and commitment to connect our libraries and schools to the Internet, this manner of funding would saddle small and large businesses with the entire burden. The economic effects of this would be disastrous. Instead of expanding America's telecommunication systems this proposal would instigate contraction of our networks. This is a very bad position for us to be in and I appeal to you to withdraw the entire proposal.

In closing, please feel free to call me at 617-353-7432 if I can provide any additional information to help clarify the budgetary issues and the negative effects of this proposal at Boston University.

Sincerely yours,

James A. Shea  
Director

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# Mississippi State UNIVERSITY

Vice President for Business Affairs

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 30, 1997

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

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MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Ex Parte Communications in CC Docket No. 96-262

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Mississippi State University has learned through the Association of College and University Telecommunications Administrators (ACUTA) of the FCC's possible consideration of certain increased monthly charges to generate additional revenue for the Universal Service Fund. Specifically, we understand that there is a proposal on the table to raise the cap on business multi-line Subscriber Line Charges by \$3.50 per line and impose a pre-subscribed line surcharge of approximately \$4.50 per line.

While we fully appreciate the FCC's obligation to implement the Telecommunications Act of 1996, we would urge you to consider more equitable measures to achieve the revenue goals for the Universal Service Fund. The increases described above, if implemented, would impact this institution (an 8500 line Centrex system) by over \$800,000 per year. This would be an increase of more than 50% over our current cost for local telephone service. These increases seem to unfairly target business users, especially Centrex systems like ours, with a disproportionate share of the universal service burden.

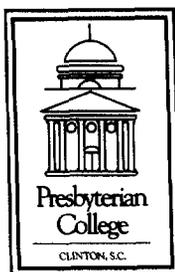
Sincerely,

Leah T. Norman  
Vice President, Business Affairs

LTN/trl

- cc: Senator Trent Lott
- Senator Thad Cochran
- Congressman Chip Pickering
- Brian Moir, Attorney
- Jeri Semer, ACUTA
- Dr. Donald Zacharias

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

May 1, 1997

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MAY 2 1997  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Consumer Affairs

via FAX 202-418-2801

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

RE: Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Presbyterian College is greatly concerned by reports of possible increases in the cap on business multi-line Subscriber Line Charges (SLC) and pre-subscribed lines (PSL) surcharges. One report indicated the possibility of an increase of \$8.00 per month charge for each business line including each Centrex line. Such a charge, depending on how implemented, could cost Presbyterian College more than \$8,000.00 per month: the equivalent of more than five full scholarships including tuition, fees, room, and board. Or, looking at it another way, this would represent an increase of almost 33% in our local telephone service bill.

We certainly hope that the commission rejects any such ideas.

The provision of discounted telecommunications services for K-12 schools, libraries, and rural health facilities may be a worthwhile public policy goal but if so it should be funded directly by Congress, not in this manner.

Presbyterian College is certainly not alone among institutions of higher education using Centrex services. Any proposal that increases fees for businesses also affects colleges, universities, and other non profits which must purchase business telephone services.

Thank you for considering our position on this matter. Once again we hope that discounted telecommunication services for K-12 schools, libraries, and rural health facilities would not be subsidized through increases in business telephone fees that feed the Universal Service Fund.

Sincerely,

Morris M. Galloway Jr.  
Dean of Administrative Services

MMG:jwc

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# NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

April 30, 1997

A. HOPE WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

EX PARTI OR LATE FILED

- BARBER-SCOTIA COLLEGE  
CONCORD
- BARTON COLLEGE  
WILSON
- BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE  
BELMONT
- BENNETT COLLEGE  
GREENSBORO
- BREYARD COLLEGE  
BREYARD
- CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY  
BUJES CREEK
- CATAWBA COLLEGE  
SALISBURY
- CHOWAN COLLEGE  
MURFREESBORO
- DAVIDSON COLLEGE  
DAVIDSON
- DUKE UNIVERSITY  
DURHAM
- ELON COLLEGE  
ELON COLLEGE
- GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY  
BOILING SPRINGS
- GREENSBORO COLLEGE  
GREENSBORO
- GUILFORD COLLEGE  
GREENSBORO
- HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY  
HIGH POINT
- JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY  
CHARLOTTE
- LEES-MCRAE COLLEGE  
BANNER ELK
- LENOIR-RHYNE COLLEGE  
HICKORY
- LIVINGSTONE COLLEGE  
SALISBURY
- LOUISBURG COLLEGE  
LOUISBURG
- MARS HILL COLLEGE  
MARS HILL
- MEREDITH COLLEGE  
RALEIGH
- METHODIST COLLEGE  
FAYETTEVILLE
- MONTREAT COLLEGE  
MONTREAT
- MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE  
MOUNT OLIVE
- N.C. WESLEYAN COLLEGE  
ROCKY MOUNT
- PEACE COLLEGE  
RALEIGH
- PFEIFFER UNIVERSITY  
MISENHEIMER
- QUEENS COLLEGE  
CHARLOTTE
- ST. ANDREWS COLLEGE  
LAURINBURG
- SAINT AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE  
RALEIGH
- SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE  
RALEIGH
- SALEM COLLEGE  
WINSTON-SALEM
- SHAW UNIVERSITY  
RALEIGH
- WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY  
WINSTON-SALEM
- WARREN WILSON COLLEGE  
ASHEVILLE
- WINGATE UNIVERSITY  
WINGATE

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

RE: Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262

Dear Mr. Hundt:

It has come to our attention that regulations are being considered by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 requirement of discounted telecommunication services for K-12 schools, libraries, and rural health facilities subsidized through the Universal Service Fund. These regulations include raising the cap on business multi-line Subscriber Line Charges (SLC) and imposition of a pre subscribed line (PSL) surcharge. These changes would have a significant negative impact on the independent colleges and universities of North Carolina.

The proposed increases in monthly charges, laudable goals of the legislation notwithstanding, will raise telecommunication costs as much as 25% for independent colleges and universities that are aggressively reducing costs in order to moderate annual increases in their tuition and fees. Indeed, operating budgets are already set for our institutions through the 1998 fiscal year. The immediate and longer term impact of the proposed fees may upset the financial equilibrium of some institutions.

We ask that the proposed regulations be reconsidered or changed to eliminate the severe negative effects for higher education institutions.

Thank you for your consideration and concern.

Sincerely,

A. Hope Williams

- c: Brian Moir
- Jeri Semer
- The Honorable Jessc Helms
- The Honorable Lauch Faircloth
- The Honorable David Price

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Jerilyn S. McIntyre  
Interim President

April 30, 1997

EX-1512 OR LATE FILED

Chairman Reed E. Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554  
Via Fax (202) 418-2801

RECEIVED

MAY 2 1997

Re: Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262  
Priority: Urgent (FCC to vote on proposal May 6, 1977)

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

It has come to the attention of the University of Utah that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is considering a proposal that will target multi-line business customers as a resource to support an initiative to upgrade the internal wiring and network accessibility of public K-12 schools and libraries, access to the network for rural health care facilities, and increase lifeline services.

As a higher education institution with a six-hundred-bed teaching hospital and the home of the Utah Education Network responsible for supporting distance learning throughout the entire state of Utah, we fully recognize the importance of this initiative. However, as a 12,000-line Centrex customer, the proposed method of funding would likely be the undoing of our own communication infrastructure.

It is our understanding that the Chairman of the FCC is considering the following increases:

- The cap on business multi-line Subscriber Line Charges (SLC) may be raised from \$6.00 per line to \$9.50 per line per month, including Centrex lines.
- A Pre-Subscribed Line (PSL) surcharge will be imposed on business users. The charge is anticipated to be \$4.50 per multi-line business line. The \$4.50 per month charge would also apply to each Centrex line.

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Office of the President  
203 Park Building  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112  
(801) 581-5701  
FAX (801) 581-6892

Chairman Reed E. Hundt  
April 30, 1997  
Page Two

- The Salt Lake City cap on second residential lines may be raised from \$3.50 to \$6.00 per month. This will affect University employees and students who telecommute.
- Cellular, PCS, and paging customers may be assessed a \$1.00 fee per telephone number per month.

If these rate increases are approved, the annual impact to the University of Utah will exceed \$1,152,000. This amount is greater than our total annual budget for campus networking and infrastructure renovation, thereby rendering helpless the very institution that is responsible for supporting K-12 distance learning and rural health care services in Utah.

In addition to the proposed increases, the University of Utah also stands to lose an additional \$78,000 per year of revenue if the Interstate access charges are cut by 40 to 50 percent as proposed by the FCC.

Due to the disproportionate share of responsibility the proposed plan places on the University of Utah, in an effort to accomplish the universal service social agenda, I strongly encourage you help us convince the Chairman of the FCC to reconsider his proposed plan and seek more equitable means of funding.

Sincerely,



Jeryllyn S. McIntyre  
Interim President

JSM/lm

cc: Thomas G. Nycum, Vice President for Administrative Services



# CANISIUS COLLEGE

2001 MAIN STREET • BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14208-1098

FAX: 716-888-3223

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES (ITS)

### FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

**TO:**

Company Name: FCC

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Attention: Reed E. Hundt, Chairman

FAX Number: 202-418-2801

**FROM:**

Person: Dr. Joel A. Cohen

Telephone Number: 716-888-2440

Date: 5-1-97

Number of Pages (including this page): 2

Remarks:

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Information Technology Services  
Telephone: 716-888-2440  
Fax: 716-888-3223  
Internet: [cohen@canisius.edu](mailto:cohen@canisius.edu)



# CANISIUS COLLEGE

2001 MAIN STREET • BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14208-1098

May 1, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Re: Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262

Reed E. Hundt, Chairman  
FCC

Dear Chairman Hundt:

RECEIVED  
MAY 2 1997  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

This is to register our extreme concern about the proposal to increase Subscriber Line Charges (SLC), Pre-subscriber line surcharges (PSL), and the "universal service social agenda obligation fee" for cellular, PCS, and paging services. Such charges will increase the cost of performing scholarly work for students and faculty. The cost of doing business for everyone at the College will increase. The College and its constituencies cannot afford these increases. We do not want these charges to be implemented.

We are also concerned about the proposal to reduce Interstate access charges. The College shares this revenue with its telephone provider. This is an important source of revenue for the College, and helps minimize the net cost of providing voice and data services to Canisius faculty, students, and staff. We want to keep these Interstate access charges at their current levels.

Sincerely,

Joel A. Cohen, Ph. D.  
Director of Information Technology Services

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United Parcel Service 515 Pennsylvania Ave. SE Washington, D.C. 20003  
(202) 475-1000

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April 29, 1997

Mr. Reed E. Hundt  
Office of Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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MAY 2 1997

REC'D

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We have learned that the FCC is considering a proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly called a FERC, of at least \$4.50 per line per month. At the same time that it is considering imposing these new charges on American business, we are told that the Commission will not reduce access charges to reflect adjustments in its price caps formula, despite the fact that the evidence clearly justifies these adjustments and despite the fact that these adjustments are long overdue.

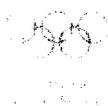
The time has come for the Commission to adjust its price caps formula. In March 1995, I wrote to you and the Commissioners regarding this issue. At that point, I urged you to carefully consider the price caps rules and the excessive interstate access rates that we and other users were paying. Your actions at that time were accurate and responsible. Today, access charges are at least \$3 billion too high on an annual basis. Consumers (business as well as residential) deserve protection from excessive monopoly prices. The Commission should not tolerate monopoly gouging for any reason, not even if acquiescence in such gouging quiets carrier objections to the telecommunications policy agenda of some at the FCC.

Sincerely,

James A. Rogers  
Vice President  
Corporate Public Affairs

cc: Commissioner Chong  
Commissioner Ness  
Commissioner Quello

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Thomas Jefferson University

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Department of Information Systems

130 South 9th Street Philadelphia, PA 19107-5233

CC 96-45

OR LATE FILED

April 30, 1997

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MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission Office of Secretary

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

Dear Mr. Hundt,

I am writing because I disapprove of the proposed plan to fund infrastructure of public schools with revenues obtained from costs levied to multi-business line telecommunications users.

Jefferson Health System is one of the largest Health Care Organizations in the city of Philadelphia with 13,000 telephone lines. We are engaged in massive cost containment programs as a result of revenue we are experiencing with the changes in managed care. Your proposal represents a \$1 million dollar increase to our telecommunications budget. In our current status, this would be disastrous.

I am the President of Delaware Valley Telecommunications Association, a local Telecommunications and Data Networking organization whose members represent large businesses in this area. I can assure you, the members do not support this proposal.

I would appreciate an update from your office on the status of this proposal.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Betsy McMenamin

Betsy McMenamin Manager Support Services

cc: Maureen Owens Al Giacomucci Tom Lewis

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Post-it\* Fax Note 7671 Date 4/30/97 # of Pages 1 To Chairman Reed Hundt From Betsy McMenamin Co./Dept. TCU Phone # Fax # 212 418 2801

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*Randolph County School System*

1208 Andrew Street  
Cuthbert, GA 31740  
(912) 732-3601 (912) 732-3840 FAX  
rcss@sowega.net

Superintendent  
Bobby T. Jenkins

Board of Education Members  
Henry Cook, Chairman  
C. Larry Brown, Vice Chairman  
John L. Davis  
Jimmy Gilbert  
Jean King

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

April 30, 1997

MAY 2 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
FCC  
1919 M. Street, N.W., Room 844  
RE: Docket No. 96-45

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Sir,

I am Superintendent in Randolph County, Georgia and I would like to thank you for your efforts to make Internet access available and affordable to our students.

I urge you to support the Telecommunications Act and Federal-State Joint Board decision that would guarantee that all school districts have an opportunity for connectivity. Services could be provided to the classroom that would positively impact student learning.

Thanks in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

*Bobby Jenkins*  
Bobby Jenkins

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**Los Angeles Unified School District**

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES: 450 NORTH GRAND AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
MAILING ADDRESS: BOX 3307, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90051  
LOS ANGELES PHONE: (213) 625-6451  
SACRAMENTO PHONE: (916) 446-6641

SIDNEY A. THOMPSON  
*Superintendent of Schools*  
  
RONALD PRESCOTT  
*Associate Superintendent  
Government Relations &  
Legislation*  
  
SANTIAGO JACKSON  
*Assistant Superintendent  
Legislation*

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 29, 1997

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

RECEIVED

MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

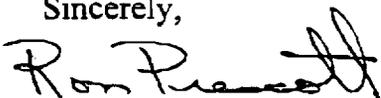
On behalf of the Los Angeles Unified School District, I would like to express our strong support for the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program, and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

Under the provisions of the telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan, even the poorest schools will be assured of access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. Telecommunications services will be brought directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. Each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program; the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. This program is absolutely essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue. To serve our students, we 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 favorable consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Prescott  
Associate Superintendent

RP/tp

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MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 18, 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are the faculty and staff from William S. James Elementary School in Harford County, 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 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 the internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. The plan is essential for preparing the work force of tomorrow.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Faculty and Staff of William S. James Elementary School

<i>Kay Knode</i>	<i>Jane Bell</i>
<i>Andrea Vogel</i>	<i>Deirdre Kelly</i>
<i>Margaret Zrenko</i>	<i>Rick Duff</i>
<i>Lynn H. Duff</i>	<i>Carbara Smith</i>
<i>Samela J. Vesely</i>	<i>Donna Wright</i>

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



FAIRFAX COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Robert R. Spillane, Superintendent  
Burkholder Administrative Center  
10700 Page Avenue  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

April 29, 1997

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MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C.

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As superintendent of the Fairfax County Public Schools, a large school division with more than 200 schools and 6,000 classrooms, I urge you to support the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Providing affordable access to schools will increase educational opportunities for all students and expand the capability of school divisions to share resources and develop distance learning programs.

I am pleased that the Act not only establishes a discount education rate for telecommunications services, but also provides discounts on the costs to make the internal connections to classrooms. While all of our schools have computers, not all classrooms are connected. Clearly, this a costly undertaking for a division our size.

Educational technology is important in Fairfax County and in Virginia. Last year the local school board spent more than \$6 million on classroom technology. The state has taken an active role by dedicating more than \$99 million to technology in our elementary and secondary schools over the next two years. Moreover, the Virginia General Assembly passed a resolution supporting the universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act during the 1997 session.

The proposal before you removes significant financial barriers for many schools and, by providing assistance through discount plans, it maintains local authority to determine the level and types of services appropriate to the local educational mission. Your approval of the e-rate will enable many more students to take advantage of the vast resources available on the information superhighway.

*Handwritten initials*

Sincerely,

*Handwritten signature of Robert R. Spillane*

Robert R. Spillane  
Superintendent of Schools

RRS/ms

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1

W. F. Madison  
Vice President  
Technology & Business Resources

CC 96-45

P.O. Box 3128  
Houston, TX 77253-3128  
Telephone 713/629-6600

**Marathon  
Oil Company**

April 30, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED  
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MAY 2 1997  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

When the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996 became law 14 months ago, the primary authors of the legislation made bold predictions regarding local exchange competition and lower rates. While it appears likely that it will take years, if not decades, before local exchange competition becomes widely available, it now appears that business will be facing increases in their overall interstate telecommunications expenses based on our most recent assessment of proposals circulating within the FCC.

Last December the FCC initiated a significant phase of the Telecommunications Reform Act, namely reform of Universal Service and Interstate Access Charge rules, which it intends to complete on May 6th. Recent reports on the FCC's progress on these issues are extremely disturbing for business. If the most recent proposal to surface at the Commission becomes the basis of the FCC's May 6th decisions, overall business users' interstate costs could increase by almost \$3 billion.

The FCC proposal projects to allocate approximately \$3.3 billion of new Monies to subsidize wiring and Internet access for public schools, libraries, and rural health care. It also appears that the FCC proposal has the objective of revenue neutrality for the local exchange carriers. This means that other industry sectors will have to pay for these increased expenditures for what is essentially a social agenda.

We have prepared some preliminary estimates of the effects of these potential rules on Marathon Oil. Marathon has approximately 6,000 subscriber lines and 3,000 cellular phones or pagers. These changes are estimated to increase our annual costs by \$650,000.

It is for these reasons that we at Marathon Oil express our opposition to these proposals. We ask the commission to rethink its goals and the subsequent cost impact of its proposals on the business community.

Sincerely,

*William F. Madison*

W.F. Madison

cc: Commissioner James Quello  
Commissioner Rachelle Chong  
Commissioner Susan Ness

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CC96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

National Cable Television Association

Decker Anstrom  
President &  
Chief Executive Officer

1724 Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, D.C. 20036-1969  
202 775-3651 Fax: 202 775-3695

May 1, 1997

FOR LATE FILED  
RECEIVED  
MAY 2 1997  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you and your colleagues prepare for final action on universal service and access charge reform issues next week, I want to reiterate that the cable television industry continues to strongly endorse the universal service recommendations made by the Federal-State Joint Board last November.

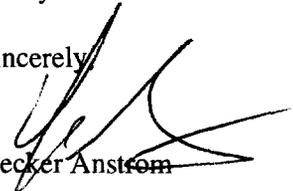
In particular, we strongly support the Joint Board's recommendations related to implementation of the Snowe-Rockefeller schools and libraries provision of the 1996 Telecommunications Act. The Board, comprised of five senior state officials, you and Commissioners Chong and Ness, appropriately concluded that:

- The size of the fund for telecommunications services, advanced services like Internet access, and internal connections should be \$2.25 billion annually;
- The FCC should implement the Act's "competitive neutrality" requirement to allow schools to have a choice among different providers of advanced services, including: wireline, wireless, and cable; and
- A competitive bidding process should be used by schools and libraries, leading to more and better services at lower prices.

We urge that the Commission take the final step—and adopt these recommendations next week.

I also want to assure you that when this important new effort to support bringing advanced services to schools is adopted, the cable TV industry will remain fully committed to our pledge to bring high-speed Internet access to schools for free. As you know, we are already delivering on our commitment that as cable companies introduce high-speed data services into communities, they will equip at least one site in every elementary and secondary school passed by cable with a cable modem, providing basic high-speed Internet access—free of charge. Clearly, the "marriage" of our voluntary commitment and full implementation of the Snowe-Rockefeller provision will accelerate the delivery of advanced services to every American classroom.

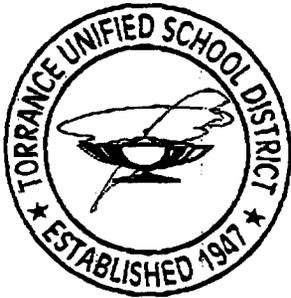
Thank you for your terrific leadership—we share your view that bringing the wonders of the information age to American's classrooms must be a major national priority.

Sincerely,  
  
Decker Anstrom

cc: Commissioners Quello, Ness, and Chong

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TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2335 PLAZA DEL AMO  
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA 90509  
TELEPHONE (310) 533-4200

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HEIDI A. ASHCRAFT  
DR. WILLIAM R. BLISCHKE  
JOHN L. EUBANKS  
GARY S. KUWAHARA  
BETH WILSON

SUPERINTENDENT  
OF SCHOOLS  
DR. ARNOLD C. PLANK

April 30, 1997

EXHIBIT OR LATE FILED

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

RECEIVED

MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Re: CC docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

On behalf of the Torrance Unified School District Board of Education and staff, I would like to thank you for your dedicated efforts 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 all schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and to give students 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 schools desperately need discounts on the equipment necessary for Internet access (internal wiring, routers, and network servers) as well as discounts on installation of data lines and on maintenance costs. The installation of a single high-speed data line for a school can be as much as \$1600. Multiply this by the number of schools in our District and Internet access has been put out of reach for many students. We cannot educate the leaders of tomorrow with yesterday's tools.

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

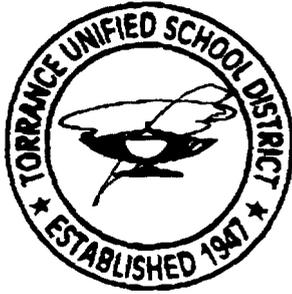
Sincerely,

Arnold C. Plank  
Superintendent

ACP:kk

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BOARD OF EDUCATION  
HEIDI A. ASHCRAFT  
DR. WILLIAM R. BLISCHKE  
JOHN L. EUBANKS  
GARY S. KUWAHARA  
BETH WILSON

TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUPERINTENDENT  
OF SCHOOLS  
DR. ARNOLO C. PLANK

2335 PLAZA DEL AMO  
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA 90509  
TELEPHONE (310) 533-4200

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 30, 1997

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

RECEIVED  
MAY 2 1997  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am a Coordinator of Curriculum from Torrance Unified School District, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring 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.

Teachers in Torrance Unified School District are extremely interested in accessing the Internet from their classrooms to enhance instruction. Furthermore, we believe that connecting each classroom to the Internet will afford our students the best opportunity to be prepared for the challenges to citizens - the 21st century.

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,

Susan Y. Adams  
Coordinator of Curriculum

SYA/dh

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Alice M. Farling, Ed.D  
2128 N St. NW  
Washington, DC 20087  
email: AIfarling@aol.com

April 30, 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt,

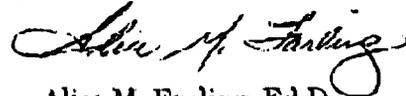
Thank you for your commitment to providing affordable access to the Information Superhighway for all public schools and libraries in our nation.

As an educator who has worked with some of nation's poorest children, I know first hand how important it is to guarantee universal access. Furthermore, access must be available *in the classroom--where students learn.*

I urge your full support of the Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan. Deep discounts are essential if we are to reach all of our nation's children--even the poorest among them.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Alice M. Farling, Ed.D

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

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April 30, 1997

Mr. Reed Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

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MAY 2 1997



NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS UNITED  
SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY  
1937 - 1997

Federal Communications Commission 1156 15TH STREET, N.W., SUITE 1100  
Office of Secretary WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-1711  
202-293-8830  
FAX: 202-872-8543

Via Fax: (202) 418-2801

Dear Chairman Hundt:

National Small Business United (NSBU), the nation's oldest small business advocacy organization, is concerned about the proposed changes to the universal services policies currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). NSBU, with 65,000 members nationwide, is troubled that these changes may punish certain segments of the small business community.

With more and more small businesses using the Internet and electronic mail, faxing equipment and other technologies to help them compete with big business and make a profit, telecommunications is a significant expense item and a critical component of a successful business.

While NSBU is in favor of open and fair competition in the telephone and communications arena, the downsides or burdens of this undertaking cannot fall disproportionately upon small business.

It is incumbent upon the FCC to ensure that the impacts of the telecommunication law implementation process does not bring additional burdens to an already overregulated sector of the business community. This proposal may well penalize hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of small businesses by insuring that they will face higher telephone rates.

NSBU encourages you to reject any proposal that would unfairly impact small business or would lead to higher telecommunication service rates. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at 202/293-8830. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

David D'Onofrio  
Director of Government & Public Affairs

- cc: Rep. Tom Bliley, Rep. John Dingell, House Commerce Committee
- Rep. James Talent, Rep. John LaFalce, House Small Business Committee
- Sen. John McCain, Sen. Ernest Hollings, Senate Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee
- Sen. Christopher Bond, Sen. John Kerry, Senate Small Business Committee

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Sony Music Entertainment Inc.

CC96-45

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MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

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550 Madison Avenue

New York, New York 10022-3211

(212) 833-8000

April 30, 1997

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We understand that the FCC is considering a proposal to increase the business line Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly called a FER0, of at least \$4.50 per line per month to support extending new telecommunications capabilities to schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. At the same time that it 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 closed 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 business of the people's representatives, not appointed officials. Moreover, nationwide educational and health care initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all interested authorities, not just as a telecommunications matter by the FCC.

Then 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,



Rose Mary Everett  
Director Telecommunications

cc: R. Schwartz

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

May 1, 1997

Jill Eberhart  
School Board Member  
Burlington RE-6J School District  
851 13th Street  
Burlington, CO 80807

RECEIVED

MAY 2 1997

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman:

I am a school board member for the Burlington RE-6J District in Colorado. Thank you for your work and dedication in attempting to supply 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 proposed act will help address the needs of our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Internal classroom connections for discounts is, what I consider, a necessary part of this plan.

Our school district is a small district (approximately 800 students) in eastern Colorado. The financial obstacles compounded by our isolated geographic location have made it impossible to gain access to distance-learning programs to date. We have managed to begin offering access to the Internet only just this year. As is no surprise to you, other capital improvements sorely needed coupled with the amount of money necessary to even gain access to other programs such as distance-learning seems unsurmountable. After the infrastructure is in place, attempting to find funds to maintain access to such services as the Internet at current market rates puts significant financial strain on our District. The discounts proposed in the Telecommunications Act would help make this goal a reality for our students.

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.

Yours truly,



Jill L. Eberhart  
School Board Member

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