

CC96-45

**SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS**

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

(619) 293-8418

Fax: (619) 291-7182

BERTHA O. PENDLETON

Superintendent

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

April 22, 1997

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

Dear Commissioner Chong:

The San Diego Unified School District strongly supports the Joint Federal-State Universal Service Board recommendation to establish an educational rate (e-rate) for public schools and libraries for the purpose of wiring and connecting to the Internet.

This district has already applied and have received a California Public Utilities Commission discount rate provided for data and voice lines for state public schools, a slightly more than 50 percent savings over regular rates. Not only does this allow more schools to be wired and connected to the Internet, but it also frees up general education dollars to be directed back to the classroom that would otherwise be spent on utility bills.

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. As a large urban school user, we will only be able to provide Internet access in all classrooms through the availability of further utility discounts. As you probably know, there is no ongoing funding from the state, federal, and local governments for education technology. School districts that make education technology a high priority, as does this district, must scramble to put together special grants and one-time funds, in addition to sacrificing general education dollars, to attempt to provide equal access for all students. 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.

We would appreciate your vote of support when the issue comes before you next month.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bertha O. Pendleton
Superintendent

BOP:bb

S/FCC/e-rate/4.97



WHEATON PUBLIC LIBRARY

225 N. Cross St., WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60187

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Telephone: (630) 668-1374
or 668-3097
Fax: (630) 668-1465

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Sarah Meisels, Library Director

April 29, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

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

Dear Commissioner Chong:

Re: CC Docket 96045--Universal Service to Libraries and Schools

On behalf of the Library Board of Trustees of the Wheaton Public Library and the residents of the City of Wheaton, Illinois, I am writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for libraries and schools as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November.

The Recommended Rules allow libraries and schools significant discounts for telecommunications and critical, non-telecommunications services necessary to assure that all public libraries and schools are connected to the Internet and other on-line resources that are critical to living and working in an increasingly information-driven world.

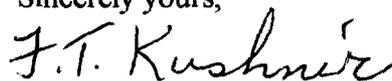
Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the clear intent of insuring that libraries and schools would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing significant discounts on telecommunications services, local wiring and Internet access, the Joint Board has accurately recognized the needs of poorer schools and libraries that cannot afford the internal wiring necessary to connect with the Internet. By allowing telecommunications companies and non-telco carriers to compete for the discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need for technologies to serve the diverse urban and rural areas of the country.

Favorable telecommunication rates are extremely important to libraries in order to access for their patrons the wealth of information available on the Internet. Libraries are particularly challenged in this decade, as they must provide both traditional library services and offer access to electronic information sources, all at a time when many library budgets are declining.

The Wheaton Public Library is among those libraries working hard to offer the latest in library technology in a community that expects it. We provide access to on-line databases with our direct Internet connection, because the currency of information is very important. Installing a direct connection is expensive. Paying monthly Internet access charges and charges for the line is expensive. It is a heavy burden on the library budget, and we would welcome more favorable rates, as would libraries far poorer than we are. In Wheaton, the public access Internet stations we offer are heavily used by recent graduates and older adults seeking information about employment opportunities and economic betterment. I venture to say those would be prime uses in all U.S. communities.

Thank you for your concern in this very important matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "F. T. Kushnir".

F. T. Kushnir, President
Library Board of Trustees



Haswell M. Franklin, CLU, RHU
David M. Morris, JD, CLU

Suite 1900
7 East Redwood Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
410-539-2320 Washington 301-470-7367

John D. Tolson, CLU, RHU
Richard B. Silberstein, CLU, ChFC, RHU
Haswell M. Franklin, Jr., LUTCF, CLU
James M.S. Franklin

Life and Health Insurance
Business and Employee Benefit Programs
Executive Compensation Plans
Personal Financial Analysis

William D. Franklin, CFP
Gale Woods, LUTCF, RHU
Henry C.B. Franklin

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 21, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

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

RE: CC Docket Number 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chung:

My name is David Morris and I am writing as a Trustee of Roland Park Country School in Baltimore, Maryland. I would like to thank you for your commitment in assuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the growing information "super highway" of the Internet.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorer schools will have opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide long distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion per year will address the needs of our schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where the students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of the Internet service provider cost. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow and it is consistent with our need to invest in our young people as a country and society.

At Roland Park Country School, using the Internet is integrated in all aspects of the school's curriculum from elementary to high school. This tool enables our students--located in the city of Baltimore--to use the Internet to do research on cutting edge developments from genetics for science papers to museums of Paris for history papers. They can share their opinions on current events with the White House and share their daily experiences with students across the world. This invaluable tool is expanded and enhances the student learning experiences and

Associated Companies

Franklin/Morris Consulting Services, Inc. • Mason and Carter, Inc. • University Insurance Associates
Bar Associations Insurance Agency, Inc.

Ms. Rachelle B. Chung, Commissioner

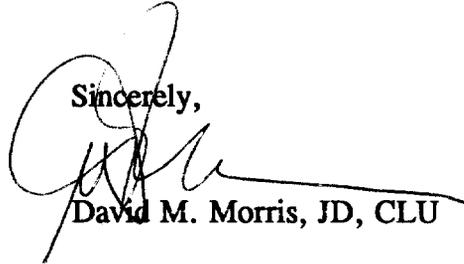
Page 2

April 21, 1997

enables them to obtain firsthand exposure to the global community. Our students do need the deep discount for telecommunication services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Boards discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DM Morris', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David M. Morris, JD, CLU

DMM/rc



*Building
Tomorrow
Today*

RECEIVED
APR 25 10 28 AM '97
JAN 11

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
400 Pearman Dairy Road
Post Office Drawer 439
Anderson, South Carolina 29622
(803) 260-5000

An Equal Opportunity Employer

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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MAY 1 1997

April 24, 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

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.

The Honorable James Quello

April 24, 1997

Page 2

3. With the additional bandwidth, we would be able to purchase distance-learning equipment that would allow our students to be involved with educational opportunities in other areas of the United States and around the world.
4. Higher recurring costs for these needed telecommunications facilities would directly affect (negatively) our ability to expand the system that we already have.

Additionally, monies saved through discounts could provide much needed resources to support other academic needs. School districts need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. Available resources for school districts are limited, compared to the need. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools. Thank you.

Sincerely,

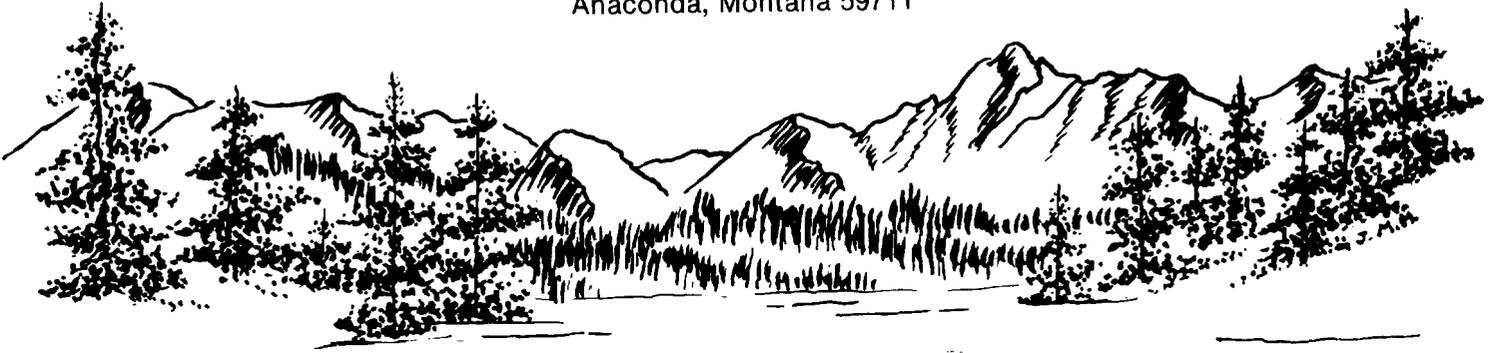


Karen C. Woodward, Ed. D.
Superintendent

chc

ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY

Courthouse - 800 South Main
Anaconda, Montana 59711



Superintendent of Schools

RECEIVED Telephone (406) 563-8421
Ext. 248

MAY 1 1997

April 23, 1997

The Honorable James Quello, Commissioner
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 "MORourke", written over a horizontal line.

Michael O'Rourke MEd, LCPC
County Superintendent of Schools



LINCOLN TRAIL LIBRARIES SYSTEM

Supporting library cooperation in East Central Illinois

April 23, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

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MAY 1 1997

The Honorable James Quello, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW-Room 844
Washington, DC 20544

Re: CC Docket #96-45 - Universal Service to Libraries and Schools

Dear Commissioner Quello:

Attached is a copy of a resolution passed by the Board of Directors of the Lincoln Trail Libraries System at its meeting of April 21, 1997 in support of the implementation of meaningful discounted telecommunications rates for public libraries and schools. The proposed discounted rate structure will be a critical factor in assuring full access for our citizens to the Internet and other sources of electronic information, as envisioned by Congress in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and in the Recommended Rules of the Federal-State Joint Board.

Lincoln Trail Libraries System is a multitype library consortium serving 118 member academic, public, school, and special libraries and 424,000 citizens in a 5,900 square mile, 9-county area in East Central Illinois. We coordinate a wide range of cooperative activities designed to facilitate interlibrary resource sharing among libraries in our region. Our member libraries include many small rural libraries serving communities as small as 850 residents. An obstacle to universal access to all citizens is the fact that high-speed telecommunications connections to the Internet are more expensive for the most remote libraries with the least ability to afford them. The discounts under consideration will help to make universal access to information a reality for all.

Thank you for your efforts in working to achieve universal access to the world of electronic information for our citizens and our students. Our citizens and society at large will benefit from the widest possible access to information.

Sincerely,

LINCOLN TRAIL LIBRARIES SYSTEM

Jan Ison
Executive Director

J1/mw
Enclosure

Resolution of the Board of Directors of Lincoln Trail Libraries System

WHEREAS, in passing the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress expressed the intent that libraries and schools should be afforded meaningful discounts for access to the Internet and other online information resources, and

WHEREAS, under the identifying title, *CC Docket #96-45 - Universal Service to Libraries and Schools*, the Federal Communications Commission has issued Federal-State Joint Board Proposed Rules regarding affordable telecommunications rates for libraries and schools, and

WHEREAS, the proposed rules allow for favorable rates, consisting of 20%-90% discounts to schools and public libraries for high speed telecommunications services and critical non-telecommunications services necessary to assure affordable access to information for our citizens and students, and

WHEREAS, access to affordable telecommunications rates is a critical component to enable schools and public libraries, especially in the rural areas of East Central Illinois, to provide universal access to this wide range of information,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on April 21, 1997 that the Board of Directors and Staff of Lincoln Trail Libraries System strongly support the recommended discounts on telecommunications rates for schools and libraries as embodied in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and hereby urge the Federal Communications Commission and the Illinois Commerce Commission to adopt rules implementing such discounts.



SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LINCOLN TRAIL LIBRARIES SYSTEM


Jerry Goff, President


Jan Ison, Executive Director

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jerry Goff, President
Urbana, IL

Allen Lanham, Vice President
Charleston, IL

Dale Hoover, Treasurer
Danville, IL

Cathy Nolan, Secretary
Cisco, IL

John Adams
Chebanse, IL

Judy Balsamello
Westville, IL

Rusty Freeland
Champaign, IL

Dave Johnson
Gibson City, IL



WHEATON PUBLIC LIBRARY

225 N. Cross St., WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60187

Telephone: (630) 668-1374
or 668-3097
Fax: (630) 668-1465

Sarah Meisels, Library Director

April 29, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

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

Dear Commissioner Quello:

Re: CC Docket 96045--Universal Service to Libraries and Schools

On behalf of the Library Board of Trustees of the Wheaton Public Library and the residents of the City of Wheaton, Illinois, I am writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for libraries and schools as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November.

The Recommended Rules allow libraries and schools significant discounts for telecommunications and critical, non-telecommunications services necessary to assure that all public libraries and schools are connected to the Internet and other on-line resources that are critical to living and working in an increasingly information-driven world.

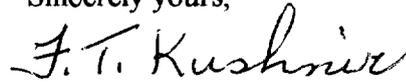
Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the clear intent of insuring that libraries and schools would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing significant discounts on telecommunications services, local wiring and Internet access, the Joint Board has accurately recognized the needs of poorer schools and libraries that cannot afford the internal wiring necessary to connect with the Internet. By allowing telecommunications companies and non-telco carriers to compete for the discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need for technologies to serve the diverse urban and rural areas of the country.

Favorable telecommunication rates are extremely important to libraries in order to access for their patrons the wealth of information available on the Internet. Libraries are particularly challenged in this decade, as they must provide both traditional library services and offer access to electronic information sources, all at a time when many library budgets are declining.

The Wheaton Public Library is among those libraries working hard to offer the latest in library technology in a community that expects it. We provide access to on-line databases with our direct Internet connection, because the currency of information is very important. Installing a direct connection is expensive. Paying monthly Internet access charges and charges for the line is expensive. It is a heavy burden on the library budget, and we would welcome more favorable rates, as would libraries far poorer than we are. In Wheaton, the public access Internet stations we offer are heavily used by recent graduates and older adults seeking information about employment opportunities and economic betterment. I venture to say those would be prime uses in all U.S. communities.

Thank you for your concern in this very important matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "F. T. Kushnir".

F. T. Kushnir, President
Library Board of Trustees

Prince Street School

400 Prince Street
Salisbury, Maryland 21804
(410) 749-6735

FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

Date: 4-30-97
To: James Quello
Fax: 202-418-2802
Re:
Sender:

YOU SHOULD RECEIVE 4 PAGE(S), INCLUDING THIS
COVER SHEET. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL THE PAGES, PLEASE CALL
(410) 749-6735.

APR 30 5 31 PM '97

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

PRINCE STREET SCHOOL
400 Prince Street
Salisbury, MD 21804
phone 410-749-6735 fax 410-341-3916

Commissioner James H. Quello
Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

We are faculty and staff from Prince Street School, Wicomico County, in Maryland. We are writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries that have been recommended by the Joint Board.

We would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Joint Board discount plan will 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 vita. This plan is essential for preparing the work force of tomorrow.

Our county has been fortunate in that a local provider has given our school free access for two years. This is the second year. In order for the schools to maintain this service, monies that might be spent on new access may have to be placed on hold. We have committees in place to write grants to provide as much monies as possible to put computers in every classroom, thus giving internet access to all students.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Faculty and Staff of Prince Street School
(See attached sheet for signatures and addresses.)

PRINCE STREET SCHOOL

400 Prince Street
Salisbury, MD 21804
phone 410-749-6735 fax 410-341-3916

April 28, 1997

I, the undersigned, am in favor of the funding of CC Docket No. 96-45.

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE
4-29-97	Debbie Link	8462 Ascot Place, Delmar, Md 21875
4-29-97	Jacqueline Jones	109 Terrapin Ln. Salisbury, MD 21804
4-29-97	Jean McNeill	3862 Devonshire Dr. Salisbury, MD 21804
4-29-97	Jacqueline D. Fuchs	1225 Mardela Spring Rd
4-29-97	Marilyn Moreno	211 W. Philadelphia Ave. Salis. MD 21801
4-29-97	Aligail G. McCallister	1704 St. Lukes Rd Salisbury MD 21804
4-29-97	Michelle B. Shrewes	6300 White Cove Dr. Sal. Md. 21804
4-29-97	Maisha M. Richards	28149 Brockhampton Ct. Sal. Md. 21801
4-29-97	Patricia Blevins	31899 York Dr, Salis. MD 21804
4-29-97	Capit Ballinger	737 Hemlock St. Salis. Md. 21804
4-29-97	Patricia A. Green	507 Woodcrest Ave. Salisbury, Md. 21804
4-29-97	Leesa S. Wilkerson	28201 Charter Ct Salisbury, Md. 21804
4-29-97	Allison P. Freshwater	301 Hall Drive - Salisbury MD 21804
4-29-97	Penny Boyell	627 Knover St. Salisbury MD 21804
4-29-97	Patricia A. Victor	5716 Blake Rd., Snow Hill Md. 21863
4-29-97	Gladius Hand	7972 Jersey Rd, Salisbury MD 21804
4-29-97	Etta Johnson	102 Tall Timbers, Fruitland, Md. 21826
4-30-97	Jerry Annis-Wright	6323 White Cove Dr. Salis. Md. 21801
4-30-97	Christina S. Curtis	21420 Nantuxke Rd. Salis MD 21801
4-30-97	Barbara Spind	28307 Canterbury Dr. Salis. MD 21801
4-30-97	Brenda Dennis	26561 Collins Wharf Rd. Eden, MD

PRINCE STREET SCHOOL

400 Prince Street
Salisbury, MD 21804
phone 410-749-6735 fax 410-341-3916

April 28, 1997

I, the undersigned, am in favor of the funding of CC Docket No. 96-45.

DATE	NAME	ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE
4/30/97	Fristy Chaven	1118 New Bedford Way Salisbury MD 21804
4/30/97	Linda R. Huffman	205 Walnut St. Salisbury MD 21804
4/30/97	W. L. Wood	605 E Goldborough St Salisbury MD 21804
4/30/97	Delores D. Decker	36796 Foxchase Dr. Salisbury MD 21804
4/30/97	Sharon Daskell	1103 Russell Ave Salisbury MD 21804
4-30-97	Deanna Dixon	810 College Lane Salis MD 21804
4-30-97	Janet Desmore	11504 S. Hills dr. Berlin Md 21811
4-30-97	Khonda Ellis	102 Elizabeth St. Salis. Md. 21801
4-30-97	Bonnie Dinger	211 Colbourne Mill Rd. Salis Md. 21804
4-30-97	Suzanne Royne	7312 Levin Daskell Rd., Hebron, MD. 21830
4-30-97	Karen Leimann	1304 Taney Ave. Salisbury 21804
4/30/97	Ronald W. Linkumler	510 Druid Hill Ave., Salisbury 21801
4/30/97	Charles L. Ryall	4090 MEADOWBRIDGE RD, Salisbury, MD 21804
4/30/97	Heily Delano	208 H. ... Salisbury
4/30/97	Marilyn K. Johnson	110 Oaklee Dr. Frederick Md.
4/30/97	Barbara Davis Miles	P.O. Box 2833 Salisbury, MD 21804
4/30/97	Vicky M. Massey	1106 Middle Neck Rd Salisbury MD 21802
4/30/97	M. Anne Handy	5785 Royal Mile Blvd. Salis, MD 21804
4/30/97	Barbara J. Robins	330 M S Morris St
4/30/97	Rotini J. Carter	4845 Cardinal Dr Salisbury MD 21804
4/30/97	Shirley J. Conway	11019 Sharptown Rd Harford, MD 21837

Liberty High School
5855 Bartholow Rd.
Eldersburg, MD 21784-8499

Dr. Robert L. Bastress
Principal

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

MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket No.96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As members of the faculty and staff of Liberty High School, Carroll County, Maryland, we wish to express our support for the Universal Service discounts for libraries and schools which have been recommended by the Joint Board.

It is important that libraries and schools have affordable access to the Internet so that everyone has the opportunity to travel the Information Highway. The Telecommunications Act will ensure that all schools, no matter how poor, will be able to connect. The plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students can learn how and where to access information while under the guidance of an informed adult.

At Liberty High School our students have access to the Internet from the Media Center, the writing lab, and data processing lab. However, as our school population is growing rapidly it is important that the opportunities for access continue to expand.

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

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Bastress, Principal
John H. Magee
Alicia Oliver - Assistant Principal
GEM Adams, Assistant Principal
Marta Carol Meyers
Sandra Sunderland
Henry Adams

Alice M. Carickner
Ruth Ann Brown
Immailey
Begg Kelly
Mary Johnson
Susan Brubaker
Flora Zedfill

WE SUPPORT THE ATTACHED LETTER

Virginia J. Pihlman	Jean Snyder
Tom Delore	Norm H. Spurr
BRUCE L. RAMASIO	Juan Smith
Miriam S. Thornton	Patricia Zuma
Jim Langford	Cheryl Bobbitt
ad [unclear]	Ernest Combs
MD [unclear]	V. C. Hill
Cathy Honey	Robert L. Greenwood Jr.
Martha C. Speck	Tom Rubin
Helen Gerwin	Marjorie Agius
Therese Green	Jane O'Keefe
Elaine M. Basso	Donald C. Hooper
Minnie H. Schaefer	Amelia Fox
[unclear]	David Fox
Michelle Singer	Imelda Hudson
Christine L. Kesh	Tom G. Jan
Dan Furman	Maribeth Weiss
Margaret Kelso	Nancy Farver
Susan Demski	Peggy McCullin
Delma Stricker	Kateleen
Richard Duwall	Barbara Nell
Maureen	Jon P. Roth
Marilyn Modrachek	Nancy Eversuch
Joyce K. [unclear]	Lynda [unclear]
Brenda A. Alexander	Minnie H. Schaefer
Mac Schuffer	Donald J. [unclear]
[unclear]	Brooklynn [unclear]
Al. Donahoe	Nora Murray
Ralph [unclear]	Robert L. [unclear]
[unclear]	Norma S. Jones
Bonnie J. Boyle	William [unclear]

CC 96-45 P.2/3

REC'D

MAY 1 1997

April 28, 1997

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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

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

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

2

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

Sincerely,

American College of Radiology

American Medical Association

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



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Cheryl L. Parrino, Chairman
Daniel J. Eastman, Commissioner
Joseph P. Mettner, Commissioner

610 North Whitney Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

April 28, 1997

MAY 1 1997

BY FAX & BY MAIL

Chairman Reed Hundt
Commissioner James Quello
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Rachelle Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington DC 20554

Re: In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service

Dear Commissioner Quello:

Next week you will be making one of the most important decisions on telecommunications since divestiture. Structuring a universal service plan to assure reasonably available and affordable services to all is a challenge, and your determinations will be critical to the entire nation.

The universal service decision will address many issues, on most of which there are divergent points of view. All the issues are complex or controversial. I would like to share some brief observations and opinions on a few of these items.

Proxy Models

I understand the goal of proxy models as used in the universal service context is to simplify the process of determining costs. Based on experience, I recognize that cost studies are expensive and can be time intensive from a regulatory perspective. I would like to see a process that minimizes costs and regulatory intervention; however, I agree with Joint Board Commissioner Julia Johnson that none of the proxies in this proceeding is ready for use. On this matter, I urge you not to make a final decision. As this whole cost issue is examined in the months ahead, I would encourage the FCC (and the continuing Joint Board) to consider more reliance on state commission efforts to identify the costs of service.

Transition Plan

I support the position of the state members of the Joint Board that encourages use of the alternative transition plan as part of the overall universal service decision. The initial Joint Board decision presents a grave potential to harm rural areas and actually diminish universal service. The alternative plan maintains more support for rural areas and companies. It offers continued incentives for infrastructure investment, avoids an immediate potential for local rate increases, and supports expanded service and growth in the rural areas.

The various provisions of the transition plan, including continued universal service support for second residential lines and business lines, will protect universal service in all parts of the nation.

Chairman Reed Hundt and Commissioners
Federal Communications Commission
Page 2

The Universal Service Challenge

I am very aware of the challenge this case presents. As a commissioner for several years, I have been in your shoes as you attempt to minimize costs while maintaining support for the many goals encompassed in the concept of universal service. I believe attention to meeting these goals is of paramount importance. Meeting all these needs may require a measured and reasoned approach that recognizes all goals may not be achievable at once. The impacts of these universal service provisions on local rates could be so high as to negate the very intentions of the universal service fund programs. It would be the ultimate irony if steps taken to protect and promote universal service were in fact a contributor to its downfall.

Joint Boards

The Joint Board process is not painless, but it works. I support continued reliance on this process to shepherd further universal service changes. I applaud the public comments by Chairman Hundt on a commitment to ongoing Joint Board involvement. The work of the separations Joint Board—in process now—will be a critical input in the ongoing evaluation of universal service.

Access Charges

Some access charge reductions are needed; however, careful weighing of goals is required. Overzealous access charge reductions could jeopardize support for rural areas and low income customers and increase pressures for increases in local rates.

In conclusion, I support your efforts and recognize your challenge. I encourage you to consider these comments as you deliberate these important issues.

Sincerely,



Cheryl L. Parrino
Chairman

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cc: Brad. Ramsay, NARUC
John F O'Neal, NRTA
Michael E. Brunner, NTCA
John N. Rose, OPASTCO
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION



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FROM: Mindy Gresham

DATE: 4/29/97

COMMENTS:

This Cover Sheet is Page 1 of 10 Pages

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James M. Smith
President

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MAY 1 1997

April 25, 1997

*To: Ask
Whether you
should be a part
of this or not.*The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554Re: Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The Commission currently is considering many important issues in connection with revisions to the universal service fund. One of those concerns is whether enhanced service providers ("ESPs") will be considered "providers of telecommunications services" under subsections 254(b)(4) and (d) of the Communications Act. Some parties have urged the Commission to conclude that ESPs are outside the scope of the Communications Act definition of providers of telecommunications services and, therefore, are not subject to universal service obligations. In Comptel's view, this definitional exemption from universal service payments would create many more problems than it solves. Moreover, it would set a dangerous and wholly unnecessary precedent.

Section 153(45) of the Act defines "telecommunications" as "the transmission, between or among points specified by the user, of information of the user's choosing, without change in the format or content of the information as sent and received." A "telecommunications service" is defined by Section 153(16) as "the offering of telecommunications for a fee directly to the public, or to such classes of users as to be effectively available directly to the public, regardless of the facilities used." In comparison, "information service" is defined by Section 153(20) as "the offering of a capability for generating, acquiring, storing, transforming, processing, retrieving, utilizing or making available information via telecommunications," but does not include such functions when used for internal network purposes only.

These terms generally are believed to be equivalent to the Commission's "basic service" and "enhanced service" definitions. However, upon closer examination, it is apparent that there is substantial overlap between them. For example, "acquiring," "retrieving" or "making available" information generally is accomplished through a telecommunications service. It is possible to be both an "information service" and a "telecommunications service."

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 added many provisions to the Communications Act which rely on the term "telecommunications service." For example: