

CC: 96-40

M. Susan Savage
MAYOR

918 • 596 • 7411



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

200 CIVIC CENTER

TULSA, OKLAHOMA

74103

April 17, 1997

MAY 1 1997

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Having followed the recent changes in the telecommunications industry I believe it is the responsibility of elected officials to monitor how those changes may effect their communities. Over the past decade, Tulsa has received several opportunities and economic benefits from investments tied to development of the telecommunications industry. Job growth related to local development of long distance service, auto and airline reservations, financial services, credit card firms and other telecommunications-based businesses have greatly contributed to the prosperity and diversity of our local economy.

This development is tied impart to a major capital investment by Southwestern Bell, which provides a digital switching system that links our 4,200 square mile, toll-free calling area and affords advanced service access throughout it. In addition to making a major investment in the local telecommunications infrastructure, this company has also taken an active role in key issues related to education, quality of life and community development.

In Tulsa, we believe that the growth of our community is tied to its most active and innovative business. That's why I encourage you to support Southwestern Bell's entrance into the long distance market. For our community, an additional choice in long distance services will mean more choices for our long distance users as well as the opportunity for more jobs for our citizens.

Chairman Reed Hundt

April 17, 1997

Page 2

While the increase of telecommunications options can bring real benefits to the entire nation, we believe those benefits will be of particular importance to Tulsa. The expansion of service options are vital to our growing economy and our long-term economic objectives. Thank you for considering our request in your effort to advance the benefits of telecommunications competition.

Sincerely,



M. Susan Savage

Mayor

MSS/je/gs

cc: Commissioner James Quello
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Rachell Chong

CC: 96-45
CCB

STATE OF MARYLAND



COMMISSIONERS

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER TOWER
6 ST. PAUL STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202-6806
(410) 767-8000
FAX NUMBER (410) 333-6495

REC-100

MAY 1 1997

April 22, 1997

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate some concerns regarding the high cost assistance fund proposals which the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") currently is considering. The Joint Board's Recommended Decision proposed a universal service plan with three components. One component is the high cost program to transfer funds to eligible communications carriers serving high cost areas. Variations on this proposal have been and continue to be proposed by different parties. It is my contention that no proposal which would increase the size of the high cost fund should be adopted, and furthermore that none of the proposed "proxy models" are sufficiently developed so as to permit their use at this time.

Under almost every option presented to date, Maryland is a net contributor to the high cost fund. Under some proposals, Maryland ratepayers' monthly bills would increase by up to approximately \$2.00 per month. Maryland ratepayers do not have the excess financial resources necessary to subsidize telecommunication providers in other states. It is patently unfair that rates for Maryland subscribers should be forced to rise in an effort to keep rates low in other areas of the country. At a minimum, we would be forced to assert that such costs should be allocated on a company-wide and not state-specific basis, or on some other more equitable basis.

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Page 2
April 22, 1997

I am very concerned that some specific elements of the proposals being considered will have the effect of unduly burdening users of telecommunications services in Maryland. The Maryland Public Service Commission has labored extensively over the past several years to foster competition in Maryland. If the federal high cost fund is not structured appropriately, the subsidy collected will have the effect of distorting the telecommunications marketplace and ultimately will hamper robust competition.

For these reasons, the proposed high cost fund should be narrowly designed to direct support to truly high cost areas. The FCC's focus should be on providing a predictable, explicit, and competitively neutral way of funding the high cost fund at existing levels rather than changing the size of the fund. It is essential to have a high cost assistance program of the correct scope in order to ensure that consumers are not overburdened in funding the new program.

I strongly urge the FCC to avoid expanding the high cost fund beyond its current scope. I further urge the FCC not to go forward with a final decision on the size and scope of the high cost fund at this point. Instead, I strongly support the proposal that the Joint Board be reconvened and that the issue be referred to it. This would permit all concerned to further consider the proxy models and other plans which have been proposed with the hope of reaching some accommodation.

Finally, please be advised that these opinions represent those of the author and not necessarily those of the Maryland Public Service Commission.

Sincerely,


H. Russell Frisby, Jr.
Chairman

cc: Commissioner James H. Quello
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong

HRF:SSM:lsm

CC: 96-45

STATE OF FLORIDA

JULIA L. JOHNSON
CHAIRMAN



CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0854
(904) 413-6044

Public Service Commission

April 18, 1997

REC'D

MAY 1 1997

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

Re: Consumer Safeguards Relating to Pay-Per-Call Concerns

Dear Mr. Hundt:

Implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 is a daunting task, though it is made easier by the spirit of cooperation between states and the FCC. As our agencies work hard to address the key issues of Universal Service and Access Charge Reform we are all busier than ever. However, other issues continue to adversely impact consumers on a daily basis. Working together we may be able to provide additional consumer protection where it is necessary.

In this regard, the Florida Public Service Commission filed a petition with the FCC on December 7, 1995, urging that the FCC consider adopting additional consumer safeguards with respect to billing abuses by segments of the pay-per-call industry. Our Petition suggests consideration of a billing block option as a tool to be made available to telephone subscribers to protect themselves. The Petition documents that dialing blocks are no longer adequate for consumer protection.

While the FCC subsequently addressed PPC issues in August 1996, as required by the TCA of 1996, action has not been completed on the FPSC's Petition and its proposals. Moreover, despite the FCC's action last year, abuses continue; Florida had more than 800 PPC complaints in 1995 and 1,179 in 1996. We are aware that other state and federal agencies are also receiving similar complaints. Indeed the Federal Trade Commission has recently opened a proceeding to review its 900-number rules. Florida will of course participate in that proceeding. However, the FCC is uniquely positioned to address the most common abuses, such as unauthorized billing to local exchange subscribers and the masking of 900-number calls. Florida's Petition provides suggestions for addressing these issues.

Honorable Reed E. Hundt. Chairman

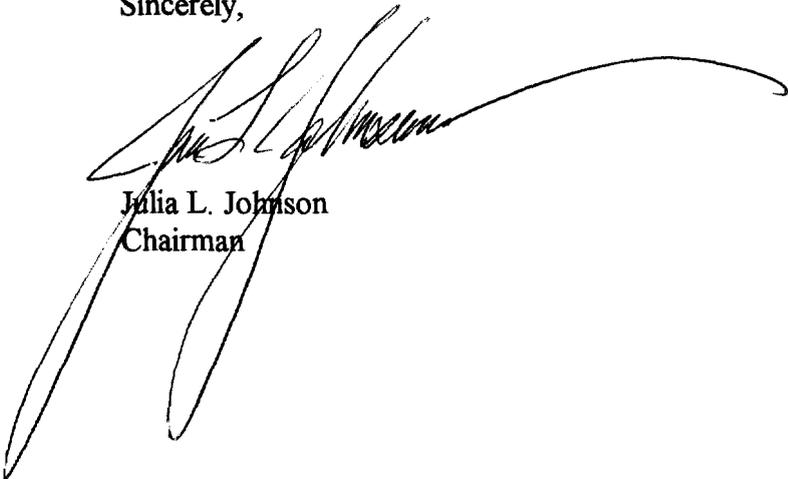
Page 2

April 18, 1997

With the spirit of cooperation evident in other areas, it is my hope that the FCC can soon address Florida's Petition, and in doing so, provide an additional measure of protection for consumers.

Meanwhile, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our Petition or its proposals.

Sincerely,



Julia L. Johnson
Chairman

Enclosure:

Petition w/o attachments

FAX

C.C. 96-45

Date 04/25/97

Number of pages including cover sheet

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

Phone

Fax Phone 202-418-2801

FROM: H. Van Dollar
Washington County Board
of Education
P. O. Box 716
210 N. Harris St.
Sandersville, GA 31082

Phone

912-552-3225

Fax Phone

912-552-3128

REMARKS: Urgent For your review Reply ASAP Please Comment

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

BOARD MEMBERS

OLIN RONALD JACKSON
Chairman

SAMMIE LEE KNIGHT
Vice Chairman

JAMES W. ENGLISH, JR.

D. PAUL TURNER

WILLIAM G. TAYLOR

BOARD OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON COUNTY

H. VAN DOLLAR, JR., SUPERINTENDENT

210 N. Harris Street - P.O. Box 716

Phone 552-3981. Area Code 912

SANDERSVILLE, GA 31082-0716

FAX (912) 552-3128

ASST. SUPT. OF INSTRUCTION
Dr. Loyce Anderson

ASST. SUPT. EMERITUS
Miss Virginia Smith

CURRICULUM DIRECTOR
Dr. Angela L. Haines

SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR
Cathy Mayberry

DIRECTOR PUPIL / PERSONNEL
Bobby G. Thompson

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

April 25, 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 the Superintendent of Washington County Schools in Washington County, Georgia 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.

In Washington County we are committed to educational reform and preparing our students to live and work in a technological society. Access to the Internet is an important part of this process. We believe that the e-rate will give us the ability to provide this access. With an average of 67% of our students receiving free and reduced lunch in Washington County, we will have a difficult time connecting our students to the Internet without these discounts.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,



H. Van Dollar, Superintendent

Washington County Schools

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1997
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

CC: 96-45

F A X

To: The Honorable Reed Hundt
Company:
Fax number: +1 (202) 4182801
Business phone:

From: Cheryl West
Fax number: +1 (912) 9348597
Business phone:
Home phone:

Date & Time: 4/25/97 3:33:44 PM
Pages: 2
Re: E-Rate for Schools

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

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a consultant at the Heart of Georgia RESA in Eastman, Georgia. Our agency serves ten school systems in the middle Georgia area. Our schools may not be able to afford Internet access without the E-Rate. All students deserve access to the Information Highway, and especially systems which are small, rural, and have so few resources. This plan is essential for preparing our children for tomorrow's work force. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you for your dedication and support.

Cheryl West

=== COVER PAGE ===

TO: _____

FAX: 12024182801

FROM: LOWCOUNTRY PEDS

FAX: 8035240425

TEL: 8035245437

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

COMMENT:

LOWCOUNTRY PEDIATRICS, P.A.
Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine
964 Ribaut Road, Suite 1
Beaufort, SC 29902
(803) 524-5437

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

April 22, 1997

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

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt,

As a school board member and an advocate for children in Beaufort, S.C., I would like to voice my support for the Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan currently being presented to your commission.

The benefit of this plan to our educational system, to our individual schools, and most importantly to our students is certainly apparent. This plan is a solid investment in the future of our children and, therefore, our society.

Thank you for your considerations.

Sincerely,



Dr. Joseph Floyd

JFbd

FOI
CC: 96-45

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

PEACH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

900 CAMPUS DRIVE
FORT VALLEY, GEORGIA 31030

FRANK A. SPEARMAN
PRINCIPAL

TELEPHONE: 912 825-8258
FAX: 912 825-2290

HENRY TERHUNE
VOCATIONAL DIRECTOR

ANDREW CARTER
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

CYNTHIA STATHAM
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

SUSAN PEARSON
SENIOR COUNSELOR

ISABELL BYAS
10TH GRADE COUNSELOR

TOM FIBBE
FRESHMAN COUNSELOR

RODNEY WALKER
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

NAOMI SIMMONS
LIBRARIAN

SUSAN BARFIELD
LIBRARIAN

CHRIS RADER
LITERARY COORDINATOR

VIRGINIA CLARK
BOOKKEEPER

JAMIE BAILEY
RECORDS CLERK

MINNIE BOOKER
RECEPTIONIST

AMY FULLER
COMPUTER ATTENDANT

LINDA SMITH
COUNSELOR'S SECRETARY

DATE: 4/25/97

FAX NO: (802) 418-2801

FAX TO: Hon. Red Hunt

FROM: Naomi Simmons

COMMENTS: _____



TOTAL PAGES INCLUDING COVER 2



PEACH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Peach County High School

900 CAMPUS DRIVE FORT VALLEY, GEORGIA 31030 [912] 825-8258

April 25, 1997

RECEIVED

The Honorable Rod Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20534

MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a media specialist from the Peach County School District in Fort Valley, Georgia, and I would like to thank you for your continued dedication in ensuring that all school districts and other educational organizations will have affordable access to the **INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY**.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint 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 support and inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to the future of education. This plan is vital for preparing our students to perform and become productive in the future workforce.

The "E-Rate" would provide tremendous discounts for our system, due to the fact that funding is very tight. This will enable Internet access to classrooms without the school district worrying about installation and maintenance costs. Most importantly, our school district will have the flexibility to determine what services are most economical and beneficial to meet the needs of our students.

The students of the Peach County School District badly need the telecommunications discount services for the 1997-98 school year. I strongly urge the FCC to support the Joint Board's discount plan for worldwide services for all schools.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

Naomi R. Simmons, Media Specialist

CC: 96-45

FAX TRANSMISSION

TREUTLEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

202 THIRD STREET
SOPERTON, GA 30457
(912) 529-4127
FAX: (912) 529-4226

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Fax # _____ Date _____

To: The Honorable Reed Hundt,
Chairman

Date: April 24, 1997

Fax #: 202-418-2801

Pages: 2, including this cover sheet.

From: Cherrie Smith

Subject: CC Docket No. 96-45

COMMENTS:

April 24, 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:

As the curriculum director for the Treutlen County school system, I am writing to express my gratitude for the actions you have taken to ensure that all school districts will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will help to level the playing field for small, rural school systems like ours and ensure that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet. It will also allow our school system to continue to provide distance-learning opportunities. It is important to bring these services directly to the classroom where students learn. Thus, your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is crucial.

We currently have one dial-in connection to the Internet at two of our three schools. Needless to say, we cannot meet the needs of all our students with this limited access. These discounts would allow us to provide the wonderful resources available on the Information Superhighway to a greater number of students, a benefit magnified by our inaccessibility to more traditional resources that are available to schools in more populated parts of our state.

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,



Cherrie Smith
Curriculum Director

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

APR 28 12 56 PM '97

AEROSPACE CORPORATION

P.O.Box 92957 M2-351
Los Angeles, CA 90009-2957

Fax Cover Sheet

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MAY 1 1997

DATE: 4-28-97

TO: Commissioner Susan Ness

PHONE:

FAX: 202 418-2821

FROM: Carol Cutting

PHONE: 310 336-0449

FAX: 310 336-7055

RE: Ex Parte Contact in CC Docket Nos. 98-45 and 98-262

Number of pages including cover sheet: [1]

Message

Please read the following letter about our concerns for the proposal to increase business line Subscriber Line Charges. We are a Federally Funded Research and Development Center and as such, our funding comes from the government, which is funded by taxpayers. This proposal would increase our operating fees substantially, possibly as high as \$50k or more per month year. So who are you really proposing should pay for this fee?

We hope you will reconsider putting this into effect.



April 28, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW Room 832
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex parte contact in CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 96-262

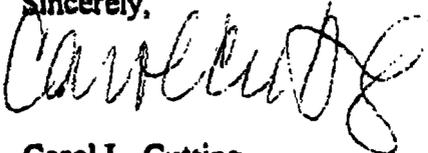
Dear Commissioner Ness,

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 FERRO, 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 of 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 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.

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,



Carol L. Cutting
Manager, Voice & Video Systems
The Aerospace Corporation

An Affirmative Action Employer

0096-45

Joseph Cook Elementary School
1175 West 1350 South
Syracuse, Utah 84075

Laurel Bain
Principal

774-7402



April 2, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C., 20054

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Dear Commissioner Chong,

As public school teachers, we write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act--through its Universal Service Fund provisions--mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

Educators know that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's children. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the FCC a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Thank You,

Undersigned Faculty and Staff Members

Cook Elementary
(Name of school)

Davis County School District, Utah

Judy J. Walton
Laylene Roderick
Myma Wilcox
Kay Day
Judy Hooper
Glavia Wilsey
Becky DeWine

Elaine Ashworth
Louise Inderieden
Natalie Merrill
Audrey Francis
Laurel M. Bain
Erin Smith



Sunset Junior High School

1610 NORTH 250 WEST
SUNSET, UTAH 84015
PHONE 801-774-7440
FAX 801-774-7446

CC96-45
LARRY E. BREWER
PRINCIPAL
DOUGLAS C. CANNON
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
ROBERT ITO
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
LLOYD H. KJAR
COUNSELOR
LORETTA NIELSON
COUNSELOR

April 2, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 844
Washington, D.C., 20054

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1997
Federal Communications Commission

Dear Commissioner Chong,

As public school teachers, we write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act--through its Universal Service Fund provisions--mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

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We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Thank You,

Undersigned Faculty and Staff Members

Sunset Jr. High
(Name of school)

Davis County School District, Utah

V. Key Bloomfield
Doug Cannon
Faetha Nelson
Jana Fry
Le Brewer
R. A. Sunderland
Lloyd N. Kyar
Melanie Sill
Lisa Briel
Claire Long
Dana Anderson
Gay Reeks
Annette Almstead

Aimee Mathews
Sherry G. Meikor
Janette Benwhens
K. Chow
R.K. JB

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OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS

EX PARTE OR LATE F

DOCKET FILE

"Preparing tomorrow's students to succeed in tomorrow's world."

APR 21 2 40 PM '97



April 9, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Communications

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness,

As superintendent of Saddleback Valley Unified School District, I would like to thank you for your efforts 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 our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

We would like to request that public education receive free Internet access to all classrooms. California schools are below the national average in per pupil funding and seventy five percent of all school districts in the United States have greater financial resources than the schools in California.

Saddleback Valley Unified School District consists of 35 schools, 1700 classrooms, and over 32,000 students. We have recently made a commitment to provide six Internet connections in all classrooms by September 1, 1997. All 35 schools currently have three or more Internet connections in a centralized location. Most schools do not yet have Internet connections in each classroom.

In order for systemic change to occur in public education, it is absolutely necessary that telecommunications functions, such as access to the Internet via high speed cable fiber optics connections, be provided to every classroom throughout the nation for no charge, regardless of the

**SADDLEBACK VALLEY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

25631 DISEÑO DRIVE
MISSION VIEJO, CALIFORNIA 92691

SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Peter A. Hartman

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Bobbee Cline, Presid
Dore J. Gilbert, M.D., Vice Pr
Marcia L. Birch, C
Debbie Hughes, Mem
Don Sadwick, Mem

number of computers being connected. Schools should not incur any monthly fees for Internet access. Even if our local cable provider offered discounts on providing cable modems for each of our computers in our classrooms, we would not be able to afford the monthly or annual cost of these connections.

Based on current cable modem monthly costs, the annual cost to use the Internet via cable modems in all 1700 rooms with six computers per room would be \$5 million without a discount. This number is based on the local cable company's current monthly charge of \$44 per connection per month. This fee amounts to approximately \$500 per year to connect one computer to the Internet on a high speed line. Even if Saddleback qualified for a 40% reduction in fees, the annual cost would still be in excess of \$3 million per year which we definitely could not afford.

I strongly encourage your Commission to follow the lead of the National Cable Television Association (NCTA) which has recently announced in their new initiative, "Cable's High Speed Education Connection", that they will provide free Internet access through cable modems to all schools. The long term goal is to link all computers in all classrooms to all appropriate areas served by cable television networks to the Internet for no on-going charge. Accessibility to all appropriate educational information on demand in every classroom is a priority if public education is to bridge the gap to the 21st century.

Sincerely,



Peter A. Hartman
Superintendent

gp

REC'

-OFF'
COMMI
SUSA

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

APR 16 10 37

Affordable Telecommunications for Rural American's Coalition
1801 N. Moore St. Arlington, VA 22209 703-875-0759

EX PARTE ON LATE FILED

April 11, 1997

RECEIVED

The Honorable Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, Dc 20554

MAY 1 1997

RR: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

On behalf of the millions of rural consumers, farmers and ranchers, educators and students who live and work in small towns and communities across America, we respectfully ask you to support the Federal-State Joint Board decision with regard to the affordable access provisions for rural school districts and libraries.

Senators Snowe, Rockefeller, Exon and Kerrey had the foresight to include a technology connectivity provision for rural communities in the Telecommunications Law of 1996. When legislation is passed by Congress in Washington, rural areas are often disregarded when formulas or placements are considered. These Senators were respectful of their rural constituents and included a provision that will help to bring rural America online with our counterparts in suburban and urban areas.

The benefits of this law are substantial. We appreciate that it maintains local control in the selection of technology and telecommunication services; provides deep discounts to school districts, libraries and consortia that are disadvantaged and/or located in remote areas; guarantees the flexibility necessary to create a service mix that addresses local needs; and provides access to the Information Highway for learners of all ages.

The FCC Joint Board issued strong and positive recommendations last fall on how the provision should be implemented. Elements in the plan include: discounts ranging from 20% to 90% based on a school district's eligibility for the national free and reduced lunch count; discounts on all available and forthcoming telecommunications services; discounts for the internal connections and networking necessary for connecting classrooms; and a fund of \$2.25 billion a year to reimburse telecommunications companies for the discounted services they provide.