

CC 96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Conemaugh Valley School District
1451 Frankstown Road
Johnstown, PA 15902
April 30, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a member of the Conemaugh Valley School District's Professional Staff, and I 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 Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the work force of tomorrow.

The Conemaugh Valley School District would use the discounts to develop secondary and elementary school wide area networks which would provide Internet connectivity for approximately 1200 elementary and secondary school students and staff.

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,



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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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1451 Frankstown Road
Johnstown, PA 15902
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Thank you.

Sincerely,

Charlene Seidle
LS Teacher

CC96-45

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Office of Secretary

Conemaugh Valley School District
1451 Frankstown Road
Johnstown, PA 15902
April 30, 1997

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Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bruce D. Mason

0096-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The School District of Haverford Township
COOPERTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
800 Coopertown Road • Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 • 610-853-5920.

April 29, 1997

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

RECEIVED
MAY 8 1997
SUNSHINE PERIOD
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Hundt,

As an elementary principal in the School District of Haverford Township, I would like to thank you for your support and dedication to education that will ensure Internet connection to every school student in Pennsylvania. This means all schools, including our own, along with the libraries in our communities, will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan guarantees that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet. With that connection, each student will be provided with distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 million a year will address the needs of our schools and, more importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. The inclusion of internal classroom connections at a discount is vital. The plan is essential to prepare students for tomorrow's work force.

Passage of this Act will allow our computer use to connect our students to the world, not only technologically, but personally. We all know thinking globally will be important for the future of our state and our country. Connecting to the world through computers will help our students learn and understand issues on a world-wide basis. Being able to connect with our county library system will also give us access to additional learning materials quickly and easily. Our children's future and the future of every child in Pennsylvania will depend on this program.

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

Sincerely,



Carol Restifo

0096-45
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The School District of Haverford Township
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
1801 Darby Road • Havertown, PA 19083 • 610-853-5909.

April 29, 1997

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

RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Dear Commissioner Hundt,

As the Superintendent of Schools in the School District of Haverford Township, I would like to thank you for your support and dedication to education that will ensure Internet connection to every school student in Pennsylvania. This means all schools, including our own, along with the libraries in our communities, will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

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

Sincerely,



Ewald Kalmbach

CC 96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The School District of Haverford Township

MANOA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

101 South Manoa Road • Havertown, PA 19083 • 610-853-5940.

April 29, 1997

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

RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Hundt,

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Sincerely,



Dr. Michael Walker



Thomas
Jefferson
University

CC 96-45
Department of Information Systems

130 South 9th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107-5233

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RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

SUNSHINE PERIOD

April 30, 1997

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 loss 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
Manager Support Services

cc: Maureen Owens
Al Giacomucci
Tom Lewis



April 23, 1997

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

CC 96-45
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RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As you are aware, The Telecommunications Act of 1996 intends that consumers receive the benefits of choice, competitive prices and technological innovation. Such benefits are of particular importance to the community I live in and the students I serve. Tulsa, a community developed through the growth of the petroleum industry, has refocused its future on the economic potential of telecommunications-based businesses. Much of the job growth reported by our local Chamber of Commerce is tied to this economic sector.

Of equal importance is the role that telecommunications plays in education. The need for computers, Internet access and classrooms that provide facilities for interactive, distance learning is continually growing. Indeed, the ability to link students with learning opportunities has never been greater. In our community, Southwestern Bell has stepped forward to meet those needs, providing funding for Internet learning and for the development of high tech, interactive education in the classroom. Similar programs to encourage use of these advanced educational tools have also been funded by the company for primary and secondary schools in the area. These are commitments, I believe, which are consistent with those of the policy makers on the Federal Communications Commission.

Considering the increasing need for such services in both the public and private sector, I believe it entirely appropriate to encourage additional telecommunications choices for consumers. The community would benefit from additional long distance competition. Further, Southwestern Bell would be an appropriate addition to that field of competitors. Please support this company's effort to enter the long distance market. Their continued growth will assure benefits to consumers, businesses and students. Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Rodger A. Randle
President

CC: Commissioner James Quello
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Rachelle Chong

CC 96-45



Greenville Urban League, Inc.

15 Regency Hill Drive + Greenville, South Carolina 29607 Post Office Box 10161

Phone: 864 / 244-3862 + Fax: 244-6134

"Changing Lives for Twenty-Five Years"

William B. Whitney
PRESIDENT/CEO

RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

SUNSHINE PERIOD

April 30, 1997

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CHAIR

Horace Williams
CHAIRMAN ELECT

David Parker
VICE CHAIRMAN

Michael Uzzell
SECRETARY

Randolph Potter
TREASURER

Phillip Kilgore
GENERAL COUNSEL

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Diane Smock
Ronald Uretta
Dennis Whitford
Mack Whittle
Susan Wilkins

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am the President of the Greenville Urban League and speak for its many members when I say that we are worried that the proposed actions of the Federal Communications Commission may result in unfavorable effects on South Carolina residents.

We are concerned that the promises of those who were in favor of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 will not be kept if the FCC has its way. If the Act is implemented in a manner that results in higher rates, that will have a disproportionate effect on lower income South Carolinians.

It is our sincere hope that this Act will provide better services and lower rates as promised. It is our request that you represent all South Carolina residents in your work in the U. S. Senate.

Thank you for your attention to this issue that is important to every resident of our State.

Sincerely,

William B. Whitney
President/CEO

WBW/mc



CC 96-45

**Dale H. Friedman
Appleton Road
Port Royal, SC 29935**

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April 28, 1997

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MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Reed Hundt, Chairman
FCC
19119 M. Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Dear Chairman Hundt,

I am writing to urge you to support full funding of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 which provides discounts for telecommunications services to schools and libraries. It is crucial that we bring services DIRECTLY INTO THE CLASSROOM where learning takes place. This plan will ensure that all schools, regardless of size or wealth, will have affordable access to the information superhighway.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



CC 96-45

Apollo

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The University of Phoenix, Inc.
Institute for Professional Development
Apollo Development Corporation
Apollo Press

April 25, 1997

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I 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 Federal Equitable Recovery Charge (FERC). The FERC charge is to be 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 the FCC is considering imposing these new costs on American businesses, I understand 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 re-balancing" or "modification of rate structures". The monetary burden of the \$4.50 FERC charge alone to my company would exceed \$10,000 per month.

With all due respect, I believe that the imposition of such taxes is the business of the people's representatives, not appointed officials. Nationwide educational and healthcare initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all interested authorities, not just as a telecommunications matter by the FCC.

The time for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges, which are more than \$3 billion a year higher than they should be, is long overdue. 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,



Melanie A. Totcky
Manager, Telecommunications
Information Services Department



Federal Communications Commission
% Reed Hunt, Chair FCC
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

C 096-48
DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
Granger Junior High School
National City, CA

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hunt:

Our society may depend on advanced telecommunication and technology skills to survive as a prosperous economy in the world market where unskilled labor is cheap.

I've worked in the aerospace business and in education. The huge disparity between the technology in business and that which is available in schools is frightening and sad. Schools still limp along with textbooks and blackboards, trying to engage a generation raised on appealing video and computer games outside school.

Our schools and libraries need deep discounts on telecommunications services, particularly in low socioeconomic areas such as where I teach. I hope you will show your concurrence by supporting the joint Board's recommendations on this matter.

Sincerely,

Jean Chene'
Jean Chene'

CC 96-45

Immaculate Conception School
4420 S. Fairfield Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60632
April 15, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Honorable Reed Hunt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20054

Dear Chariman Hundt:

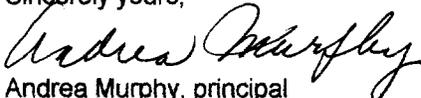
I am writing to you as a concerned principal regarding support for meaningful discounts for school and laibraries as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their recommended rules published last November. In particula, I support the recommendations made by EdLiNC, a Washington-based coalition for educational and library organizations.

The recommended rules ensure that all children, wheather in public or non-public schools would have access to on'line resources that are critical to learning in this modern society.

We at Immaculate Conception have purchased computer equipment for our students through fundraising efforts and some federal programs. This is a start for the children in computer learning. However, it is not enough. Four years ago, none of the classes had computers. The "lab" had 8 Apple lies. The office had and still has, an old IBM compatible. Within the last four years, we have added four Macs, four lies and two ligs to our lab. Students participate in computer assisted instruction once a week on these computers. Presntly, five of our classrooms now have some sort of a computer (286s, old Apple lies, as well as some brand new IBM compatibles that became outdated a month after purchase.) Presently we would like to go on line in several of the rooms, but financially we are unable to afford that educational "luxury". Within the next five years, we hope to offer a school home page, homework hot line, computer workshops for parents and teachers and senior citizens. To accomplish this we need financial help. Within the past four years, I taught computer basics to the IC faculty and staff, to twenty teachers from other schools, held a Technology Nite with Microsoft, begged and borrowed misc. computer components.

Please help our children in any way that you can. Please support "e-rates" for our school and libraries.

Sincerely yours,



Andrea Murphy, principal
I C staff and students

CC 96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

SUNSHINE PERIOD

April 28, 1997

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

RECEIVED
MAY 8 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am a parent of two children in our local public school system. I am also a post-secondary education teacher and a school board member in Beaufort County. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your efforts in helping our schools to gain access to the world of information via telecommunication.

Through the Telecommunication Act and the Joint State Board discount plan, there will be greater opportunities for our district to enable our children to receive educational information through distance learning. This will also allow more instruction to take place without regard to class size.

Please continue to fully support the Joint Board discount plan for our children because they will be the leaders of tomorrow.

Sincerely,



Ronald Speaks

CC 96-45

ALLEGHENY VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

PEARL AVENUE
CHESWICK, PENNSYLVANIA 15024

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

SUNSHINE PERIOD

April 30, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary



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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

On May 8, 1997, when you vote on the FCC Federal State Joint Boards recommendation to provide significant discounts for all telecommunications services, including connections within each classroom, you will have the opportunity to guarantee that all students have an equal opportunity to benefit from our nation's technological advancements. This will prove to be a major step in the efforts to prepare students for their future in which 60% of the jobs will require computer skills.

As a school superintendent, I can assure you that the proposed discounts would provide a major thrust to our efforts to integrate technology into the curriculum. We are committed to providing our students with the computer skills that business demands and that our workforce will need to maintain our competitiveness in a global economy.

I encourage you to support the plan to provide discounts to schools for all telecommunications services, including internal connections. This action will open the door of opportunity for every student in our country and help to prepare our workforce of the future.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Wasilak, Ph. D.
Superintendent

Superintendent
Pearl Avenue
Cheswick, PA 15024
412-274-5300

Springdale High School
501 Butler Road
Springdale, PA 15144
412-274-8100

Acmetonia Elementary
Pearl Avenue
Cheswick, PA 15024
412-274-6500

Colfax Elementary
Colfax at Rosslyn
Springdale, PA 15144
412-274-7200

Business Office
Pearl Avenue
Cheswick, PA 15024
412-274-5300

CC96-45

The School District of Haverford Township
LYNNEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1400 Lawrence Road • Havertown, PA 19083 • 610-853-5930.

FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 29, 1997

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

Dear Commissioner Hundt,

As an elementary principal in the School District of Haverford Township, I would like to thank you for your support and dedication to education that will ensure Internet connection to every school student in Pennsylvania. This means all schools, including our own, along with the libraries in our communities, will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan guarantees that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet. With that connection, each student will be provided with distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 million a year will address the needs of our schools and, more importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. The inclusion of internal classroom connections at a discount is vital. The plan is essential to prepare students for tomorrow's work force.

Passage of this Act will allow our computer use to connect our students to the world, not only technologically, but personally. We all know thinking globally will be important for the future of our state and our country. Connecting to the world through computers will help our students learn and understand issues on a world-wide basis. Being able to connect with our county library system will also give us access to additional learning materials quickly and easily. Our children's future and the future of every child in Pennsylvania will depend on this program.

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

Sincerely,



Edward Pratt

CC 96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The School District of Haverford Township
Haverford Middle School

1800 Darby Road • Havertown, PA 19083 • 610-853-5925.

April 29, 1997

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

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Hundt,

As the middle school principal in the School District of Haverford Township, I would like to thank you for your support and dedication to education that will ensure Internet connection to every school student in Pennsylvania. This means all schools, including our own, along with the libraries in our communities, will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

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

Sincerely,



Michael Bianco

CC96-45

The School District of Haverford Township
OAKMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

50 South Eagle Road • Havertown, PA 19083 • 610-853-5950

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 29, 1997

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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

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Sincerely,

Audrone Meskauskas

Dr. Audrone Meskauskas

CC96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The School District of Haverford Township

HAVERFORD HIGH SCHOOL

200 Mill Road • Havertown, PA 19083 • 610-853-5905.

April 29, 1997

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

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED
MAY 8 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Hundt,

As the high school principal in the School District of Haverford Township, I would like to thank you for your support and dedication to education that will ensure Internet connection to every school student in Pennsylvania. This means all schools, including our own, along with the libraries in our communities, will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

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Sincerely,


John Meehan

CC96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The School District of Haverford Township
CHATHAM PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

100 Allston Road • Havertown, PA 19083 • 610-853-5910.

April 29, 1997

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

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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MAY 8 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Hundt,

As an elementary principal in the School District of Haverford Township, I would like to thank you for your support and dedication to education that will ensure Internet connection to every school student in Pennsylvania. This means all schools, including our own, along with the libraries in our communities, will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan guarantees that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet. With that connection, each student will be provided with distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 million a year will address the needs of our schools and, more importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. The inclusion of internal classroom connections at a discount is vital. The plan is essential to prepare students for tomorrow's work force.

Passage of this Act will allow our computer use to connect our students to the world, not only technologically, but personally. We all know thinking globally will be important for the future of our state and our country. Connecting to the world through computers will help our students learn and understand issues on a world-wide basis. Being able to connect with our county library system will also give us access to additional learning materials quickly and easily. Our children's future and the future of every child in Pennsylvania will depend on this program.

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

Sincerely,

Daniel Marsella

Daniel Marsella



FRAN ULMER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF ALASKA

May 1, 1997

0096-48
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SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

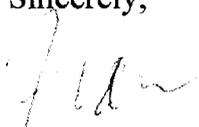
Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the Local-State Advisory Board. I look forward to providing input on issues that concern Alaska and other areas of the country concerning Commission actions and decisions under the 1996 Telecommunications Act.

As I pointed out during the meeting, right-of-way issues comprise a major telecommunications concern in Alaska at the present time. Further examination by the Board and Commission staff of how to determine the value of rights-of-way will be especially useful.

There are additional concerns which members of the Local-State Advisory Board pointed out during the April meeting that should continue to be on our agenda. Several Board members brought up considerations surrounding universal service. Although the Commission will issue a major ruling on many aspects of universal service next week, I understand that several facets will continue to be under discussion after that date. I urge you to include the Local-State Advisory Board in those discussions. As local and state representatives, we see universal service to be of major importance because of its effect on remote and high-cost areas, schools, libraries and health care providers.

Again, I enjoyed sharing views with you during the April Board meeting, and look forward to future opportunities.

Sincerely,


Fran Ulmer
Lieutenant Governor



FERNDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

725 Pinecrest • Ferndale, Michigan 48220

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CC96-45

SUNSHINE PERIOD RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 30, 1997

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Two years ago you made a presentation at the Educational Technology conference and spoke of an educational rate that would provide every school and library in the country with discounted services for telecommunications. Your remarks were well received at the conference and I'm glad to see that this proposal is now coming to fruition.

I would like to personally thank you for your dedication and commitment to ensure that all schools have affordable access to the information superhighway. The proposed e-rate plan will begin to address some of the needs of our students in our nation's schools. This joint effort between the government and businesses will provide the schools with the electronic communications that will allow us to prepare our students for the workforce of tomorrow.

If our students are truly to be competitive, it will take the efforts of government, businesses, and education working together to provide for the best educational environment for these students. Telecommunications is the wave of the future and must be supported by all who serve education.

In closing, I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for the universal service for all schools and libraries in the nation.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Marcee E. Martin, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

0096-45

BOARD OF EDUCATION AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
6020 Pontiac Lake Road
Waterford, Michigan 48327-1847

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HOWARD T. HEITZEG Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

PHONE: (810) 666-2222
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MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary



April 28, 1997

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

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Dear Chairman Hundt:

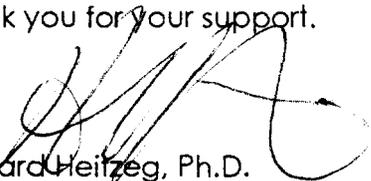
You made a presentation at the Secretary of Education's Conference on Educational Technologies two years ago and spoke of an educational rate that would provide every school and library in the country with discounted services for telecommunications. Your remarks were well received and I am glad to see that you are a man of your word and that this proposal is now coming to fruition.

I thank you for your dedication and commitment to ensure that all schools have affordable access to the information superhighway. The proposed e-rate plan will begin to address some of the needs of our students. This joint effort between the government and business will provide schools with the electronic communications that will allow us to prepare our students for the workforce of tomorrow.

If our students are truly to be competitive, it will take the efforts of government, business, and education working together to provide for the best educational environment for these students. Telecommunication is the wave of the future and must be supported by all who serve education.

In closing, I urge the FCC to fully support the joint Board's discount plan for the universal service for all schools and libraries in this nation.

Thank you for your support.


Howard Heitzeg, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

/de

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Independent Insurance Agents of America

INCORPORATED



April 30, 1997

CAPITOL HILL OFFICE
SUITE 300
412 FIRST STREET, S.E.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003

RECORDED
202/863-7000
FAX 202/863-7015

MAY 8 1997

SUNSHINE PERIOD
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

Dear Chairman Hundt,

On behalf of the 280,000 insurance agents and independent agencies represented by the Independent Insurance Agents of America (IIAA), I am writing to express our interest in the upcoming decision on proposed reductions in access charges and changes to universal service. There is a concern among the IIAA membership that many of the changes you are contemplating will increase fees on small businesses.

Every single insurance agent relies on quality phone service to conduct their business, whether it is taking a claim after an automobile accident or helping a customer during the floods in North Dakota. Telecommunications is a significant cost of the IIAA membership and an essential part of their business development. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was intended to reduce these costs.

One simple way to decrease the cost of telecommunications is to reduce access charges consumers pay to originate and terminate long distance calls. However, any efforts to cut access charges while increasing fees on phones for small business is bad policy and an unfair burden on small business. Access charges should be cut.

Many of the proposals being considered by the FCC penalize small business by insuring that they will face higher rates. Small business should not be singled out to bear the burden of telecommunications deregulation. The FCC should follow the intent of Congress and the understanding of the American people when the Telecommunications Act was passed: Lower rates and increased competition.

IIAA encourages you to reject any proposal that would unfairly target small business for increased fees. I thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Equale
Senior Vice President
of Government Affairs

PAE/kb

CC96-45

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MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

May 1, 1997

Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20054

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I 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.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-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. As of now our school system is unable to afford Internet capabilities to extend access to each classroom. Our local telephone company has been reluctant to give our schools reduced rates. We would like for our students to have the same opportunities that are afforded to students in more affluent areas. Without the passage of the Telecommunications Act, there is very little hope that we will ever be able to provide this opportunity.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to the 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.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of 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.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wright