

CC 96-45

Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 30, 1997

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MAY 12 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

Dear Commissioner Chong:

As a Pennsylvania Intermediate Unit Executive Director, 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 of our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internet classroom connections is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

ARIN Intermediate Unit 28 serves as an Internet Service Provider to our local districts, vocational-technical schools, and public libraries (as do many of our sister Intermediate Units across the Commonwealth). Even though we provide these services at well below market rates, there are many institutions in our rural area that simply cannot afford Internet connectivity. The discounts provided in the Telecommunications Act will enable them to establish these desperately needed connections.

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

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Carey, Ed.D.
PAIU President

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CC 96-45

Thomas Jefferson/Whittier School

600 MOTOR STREET PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48341 (313) 857-8333

May 5, 1997

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

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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Dear Chairman Hundt:

I'm sure you will not remember me, but I met you in Washington at the Secretary of Education's Conference on Educational Technologies two year ago. At that time, you made a presentation at the 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 you are a man of your word and 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,

Mr. Jimmie Randolph
Principal

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Belief Statement

What I am to be, I am now becoming.
I choose to be a winner!!

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MAY 12 1997

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

May 5, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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

cc: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The use of the internet would be well appreciated by many of my fellow school members. The internet would aid us in reports, visual aids, and biographies. The internet would also help us in other things we don't know about now.

It would also be nice if you would try to get the "e-rate" ~~for~~ implemented. All of this would give us great pleasure to possess and make us very proud of our school

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 16, 1997

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

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

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

Integrating technology into the curriculum requires advanced telecommunications services and access for all classrooms - not just those classrooms in the public sector. National education surveys indicate that Catholic school classroom access to computers and connectivity is at least 50% behind that of its public school counterparts. I know for a fact that this percent is high when compared to many of our local urban Catholic schools.

In addition to the technology plan for my school being in place, the majority of Catholic schools in the greater Toledo area also have their technology plan ready to go, while the remainder of schools are currently finalizing their plan. We are however significantly disadvantaged and hindered in trying to implement our plans, because Catholic schools are excluded from most local and state funded initiatives for purchase of technology hardware. This reality compounded with the simple fact that without discounts on internal wiring and Internet access, these services may not be affordable to many schools.

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

Sincerely,



JoAnn Tallarico
29432 Belmont Lake Road
Perrysburg, Ohio 43551

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

May 2, 1997

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

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RECEIVED

MAY 12 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

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.

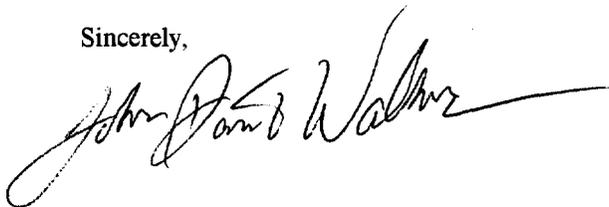
There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries would assure that our children and life-long learners 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.

It is essential in a small rural community such as ours that we be afforded the same opportunities as larger more affluent communities. Without the implementation of the provisions in the Telecommunications Act our schools will not have access to the Internet and other advanced telecommunications technology. Our local resources are inadequate to meet the present costs of access, and our local service providers are unwilling to make the needed commitments to provide us with the services we need at affordable rates.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission 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.

Sincerely,



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MAY 12 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

May 2, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairmen
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. St. NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20054
CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

My name is Stacee Harrelson and I am a tenth grade student at Telfair County High School.

My school is located at least 55 miles from the nearest city. We do not have close access to good libraries. The Internet is very useful with this problem. With use of the Internet students at Telfair High are able to find many research items and learning tools that they would not have without the Internet.

I would like to ask you to please implement the "e-rate" for schools. This system would save our county a lot of money which we really need.

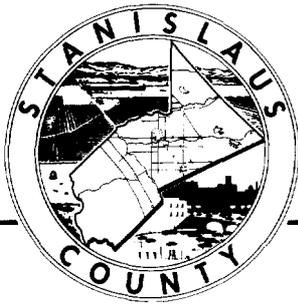
Thank you!

Sincerely

Stacee Harrelson
Stacee Harrelson

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Stanislaus County

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

Administration Building
1100 H Street, Rm. 1
Modesto, California 95354-2382
Phone (209) 525-6397
Fax (209) 525-5930

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May 5, 1997

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MAY 12 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex parte contact in CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and ~~96-46~~

Dear Commissioner Chong:

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 on American businesses, we are told that the Commission will not take the long overdue step of bringing rates closer to the true economic cost of local access services.

I urge you not to adopt the foregoing proposals which would, in effect, impose a new tax on American businesses, regardless of whether it is characterized as a "rate rebalancing" or "modification of rate structures". With all due respect, we believe that the imposition of such taxes is the business of the people's representatives, not the appointed officials. Moreover, nationwide educational and health care initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all interested authorities, not just as a telecommunications matter by the FCC.

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 address in other ways and not get in the way of these reforms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Wright".

Charles Wright, MIS Director

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May 1, 1997

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

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing in support of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service's set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. As a student at Telfair County High School in McRae, Georgia, I feel that implementation of these recommendations is essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to my fellow students both locally and across the country. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries is important to improving learning, sparking the imagination, and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's people.

Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the twenty-first century. There is no doubt that having technology available to students in all classrooms and libraries will assure that students will be able to connect with the technology we need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce.

As a high school student in rural Georgia, I have limited accessibility to expansive library collections for academic assignments. For the past few years, our county has had free Internet access through a state grant. This opportunity has been invaluable in utilizing resources from all around the globe for use in term papers and research projects. However, in June of this year, this service will be discontinued, and hundreds of students will suffer from this loss.

I urge you to support 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 American.

Sincerely,



Beth Bartlett

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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May 1, 1997

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

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Sincerely,



Ginger Knowles

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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May 1, 1997

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

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CC: Docket No. 96-45

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Sincerely,

Whitney Marchant

Whitney Marchant

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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
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Sincerely,



Meredith Graves

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May 1, 1997

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

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

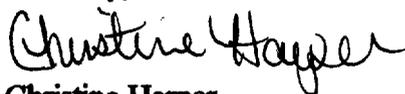
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Sincerely,



Christine Harper

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May 1, 1997

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

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CC: Docket No. 96-45

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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Sincerely,

Rebekah Pack

Rebekah Pack

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May 1, 1997

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

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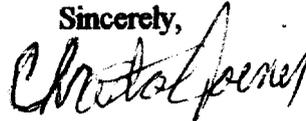
CC: Docket No. 96-45

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We, the students at Telfair County High, enjoy working on the Internet and other computer programs at our school, but the rising cost of these facilities may soon knock us off of the technological ladder. The majority of the people have cleared \$20,000 a year and many do not make that much. The schools are hard-pressed to find the tax money to keep programs such as the Internet going. A suggestion to give schools such as ours a discount on the services is a welcome idea. Small schools with less than 600 students should not be charged as much as larger schools in Fulton and Bibb. These schools have more students using the computers and more economic value. We see no reason why a school should not be granted a discount when many other companies from whom we order our supplies do so.

Sincerely,



Christa Joiner

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Board of Directors

Ned Mervos, President
Raymond M. Butko
John A. Connolly
John J. Donis
David R. Fialkovich
Pat J. Natale
Michael J. Olack
Theresa B. Wright

**West Mifflin Area
School District**



May 5, 1997

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MAY 12 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

On May 8, 1997, when you vote on the FCC Federal State Joint Board's 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 member of the West Mifflin Area School District's Board of Directors, I can assure you that our financial resources are being stretched to the limit. We face a constant struggle to meet the ever increasing demands being placed on our school district without sufficient funding to support our efforts. The proposed discounts will be a vital link in our efforts to expand the use of technology in our classrooms.

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,

Ned Mervos, President
West Mifflin Area School District
Board of School Directors

NM/es

cc: Board of School Directors
Mr. Donald U. Wukich

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CC 96-45
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SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OOSTBURG

410 New York Avenue - Oostburg, WI 53070

414-564-2346 - Fax 414-564-6138

Marvin Hopland
District Administrator
Elementary Principal



Brian Hanes
High School Principal
John Lacke
Middle School Principal

May 5, 1997

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

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MAY 12 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC: Docket No. 20054

Dear Mr. Hundt,

On behalf of the Oostburg School District I write in support of the Joint Board recommendations for providing discounted telecommunications services to schools and libraries. We are an example of a school district that has been conservative with our spending in the past and have consequently been penalized under the new cost controls formula in Wisconsin.

The bottom line is affordable access. The long term possibility for more internet and telecommunications opportunities will not be possible for a district like ours without a discounted option offered to schools.

We would appreciate your support concerning the Joint Board recommendations!

Sincerely,

Brian H. Hanes, Ph.D.
Principal

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May 5, 1997

MAY 12 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I understand your are considering modifications to the Joint Board's Recommended High Cost Fund Proposal. After carefully reviewing the modifications I am concerned that Maryland's net contribution to the fund will increase, forcing higher rates to Marylanders to account for this increased subsidy for telecommunications subscribers from other states.

This is an unfair burden to place on citizens, as the Maryland General Assembly has worked pro-actively to develop a framework to foster telecommunications competition in Maryland. This skews and hampers robust competition, and ultimately inhibits economic development.

I join with the Governor of our State, and the Chairman of our Public Service Commission in urging you and the entire FCC to defer any final decision on the size and scope of the high cost fund, and reconvene the Joint Board to revisit this issue.

Sincerely,

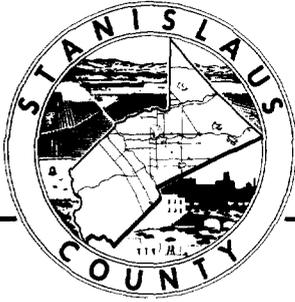
Charles I. Ecker
Howard County Executive

BMW

cc: Howard County Council Members

Handwritten initials

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Stanislaus County

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

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Administration Building
1100 H Street, Rm. 1
Modesto, California 95354-2382
Phone (209) 525-6397
Fax (209) 525-5930

May 5, 1997

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

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Federal Communications Commission
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Re: Ex parte contact in CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and ~~96-702~~

Dear Chairman Hundt:

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Sincerely,

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Charles Wright, MIS Director

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Office of Secretary

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,

Eugenia Middleton

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

CC 96-45

May 1, 1997

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

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MAY 12 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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Sincerely,

Reed Hundt

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CC 96-45

Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units

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MAY 12 1997

April 30, 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

Dear Chairman Hunt:

As a Pennsylvania Intermediate Unit Executive Director, 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 of our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internet classroom connections is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

ARIN Intermediate Unit 28 serves as an Internet Service Provider to our local districts, vocational-technical schools, and public libraries (as do many of our sister Intermediate Units across the Commonwealth). Even though we provide these services at well below market rates, there are many institutions in our rural area that simply cannot afford Internet connectivity. The discounts provided in the Telecommunications Act will enable them to establish these desperately needed connections.

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

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Carey, Ed.D.
PAIU President

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CC 96-45

May 1, 1997

James Quello, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 802
Washington, D.C. 20054

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MAY 12 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Quello:

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.

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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,

Pinkie Clark

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CC 96-45

Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units

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MAY 12 1997

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Office of Secretary

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Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Thomas P. Carey, Ed.D.
PAIU President

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May 4, 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt,

I am from Telfair County in southern Georgia. I am writing this letter to you to ask you to try to implement the discounted "e-rate" in schools. Telfair County is a very small community. There are no big cities within 100 miles of us. At our school you know everyone you pass in the hall.

The Internet has greatly benefited our school. It has allowed many students to complete research projects and it also allows us

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to learn about the world
around us. Using the
Internet has become a part
of many students' lives.

Without the discounted "e-rate"
our school will lose the
Internet. It has become a very
valuable source of information
to our school and would be
a great loss. Hopefully this
letter will make a difference.

I hope you will help us
keep the Internet at our school
and we will be very grateful.

Sincerely,

Amy White

Tuffin Co. High School

I hope you will help us
keep the Internet at our school
and we will be very grateful.