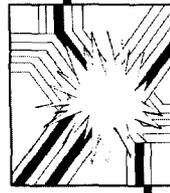


THE • CENTER • FOR
ADVANCED
TECHNOLOGIES



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

SUNSHINE PERIOD

JAMES H. QUAY

APR 15 10 08 AM '97

215-271-1111

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

I am a technical support specialist from the Center for Advanced Technologies, Altoona, Pennsylvania, 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 schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

The Center for Advanced Technologies, a nationally recognized technology education center, will then be better able to ensure that all of the classrooms through our district will be affordably connected to the Internet. It is important for our educators in Altoona to prepare our students to exit school with the technology skills they will need to survive in the workplace. It is vitally important for the economic development of our "rust belt" region to encourage the settlement of new business's in Altoona. This can only be accomplished with a technology enriched local workforce. The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will help guarantee our regions growth.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Troy Anderson
Technical Support

TBA Traverse Bay Area
ISD Intermediate School District

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
P.O.Box 6120, 1101 Red Drive
Traverse City, MI 49685-6120
(616) 922-6200 FAX: (616) 922-6270
Michael D. McIntyre Superintendent
Linda Fink, Assistant Superintendent/Special Education
William A. Hoffman, Assistant Superintendent
Administrative Services/General & Vocational Education

April 10, 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner/Chairman Quello,

I am a superintendent representing Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District, 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 all school districts with connectivity to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities for all K-12 students. 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. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital and essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Savings resulting from this decision would enable districts further opportunities to free up resources for teacher training and permit technology applications to instruction that otherwise would not be available.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support of the Joint Board's discount plan for universal services for schools. Thank you for your serious consideration of this very timely initiative.

Sincerely,


Michael D. McIntyre
Superintendent

96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

SUNSHINE PERIOD

REC

MAY 6 10 15 AM '97

JAN 21 1997
MAY 6 1997

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

Dear Commissioner Quello:

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,

Bruce D. Mason



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

APR 13 AM '97

The Perfect Balance

9 April 1997

The Honorable James Quello
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 802
Washington, DC 20554

JAMES A. QUELLO
• 1300 North Sepulveda Boulevard
Post Office Box 49325
Los Angeles, California 90049
(310) 476-8585 / 476-0916 Fax

MAY 6 1997

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Deborah Richman, and I am the Head of School at the TURNINGPOINT School. TURNINGPOINT is an independent, coeducational elementary school in Los Angeles; I am writing because we are one of the many public and private institutions who benefit from your dedication to ensuring that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to all the educational opportunities afforded by the Internet. Each penny of the \$2.25 billion per year will directly benefit our country's children by bringing the most current technology and information into our classrooms. It is vital that you include discounts for internal classroom connections as well Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential to our children's education and future.

The cost of private education is rising at an enormous rate to try to compensate for the increasing and never-ending costs of computer technology, but independent schools like TURNINGPOINT would be unable to afford such essentials without these most important discounts for classrooms. Our students' futures depend on these telecommunications discounts. I strongly urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Deborah Richman
Head of School

DR/mf

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Lebanon School District
Instructional Media Department
1000 South Eighth Street
Lebanon, PA 17042

The Honorable Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

April 21, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness,

I am a Technology Coordinator from Lebanon School District in Lebanon, Pennsylvania 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 schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our district has a five-year Technology Plan that identifies the need for internal voice, data and video networks for our seven buildings and upgrading for a wide area network for connectivity within and outside our district. Internet and other distance-learning access to all classrooms, libraries, and offices is another identified need. We need the discount plan to help us provide the solutions to these needs.

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.

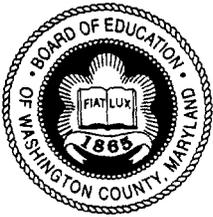
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Pamela Wentling
Pamela Wentling

MAY 1 4 25 PM '97

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS



BOARD OF EDUCATION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

P. O. BOX 730, COMMONWEALTH AVENUE, HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND 21741-0730 ■ PHONE: 301-766-2815

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL SUNSHINE PERIOD

B. MARIE BYERS
President

April 29, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

**Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary**

The Honorable Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am the school board president from Washington County, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce for tomorrow.

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.

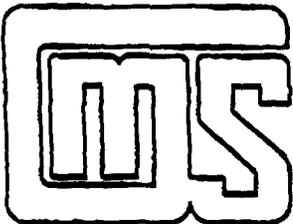
Sincerely,

B. Marie Byers, President
Board of Education of Washington County

cas

MAY 1 4 25 PM '97

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education
Post Office Box 30036
Charlotte, North Carolina 28230-0036
Telephone (704) 379-7141

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Susan Burgess, Chairperson
Arthur Griffin Jr., Vice Chairperson
George R. Dunlap
Lindalyn Kakadellis
John W. Lassiter
Patricia R. Marge
Samuel L. Reid
John A. Tate III
Louise S. Woods

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

May 1, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

MAY 1 3 07 PM '97

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS

RECEIVED

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

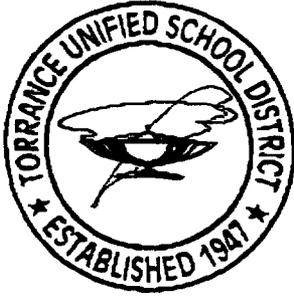
The Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System works hard to assure that all 93,000 children in Mecklenburg County receive the finest education possible and to prepare them for their future life and work in the 21st century. Classroom connection to the internet is essential for their preparation for the information age.

I urge you to support the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan. This will enable even the poorest schools the opportunity to connect to the internet and provide distance-learning opportunities allowing equity in American education.

Thank you for your service to our nation, especially to our students, our future and number one priority.

Sincerely,

Susan Burgess



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BOARD OF EDUCATION
ASHCRAFT
DR. WILLIAM ELISCHKE
JOHN L. EUBANKS
GARY S. KUWAHARA
BETH WILSON

SUNSHINE PERIOD

TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS
DR. ARNOLD C. PLANK

2335 PLAZA DEL AMO
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA 90509

TELEPHONE (310) 533-4200

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

"The Pride of the North"

2418 West 166th Street

Torrance, CA 90504

(310) 533-4464

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

May 1, 1997

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832
Washington DC 90554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commission Ness:

I am an elementary principal with the Torrance Unified School District, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our school, 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.

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

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Tamara Smith
Principal

TS:bg



MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Central Services Building
5225 West Vliet Street
P O Box 2181
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201-2181
Phone: 414-475-8731
Fax: 414-475-8731

April 21, 1997

RECEIVED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

MAY 6 1997 SUNSHINE PERIOD

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

On behalf of the Milwaukee Public School district, I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

The 'E-rate' initiative is a critical element to the successful implementation of Milwaukee Public Schools' *Technology Strategic Plan*. We are convinced that the future of our community is linked directly to how successfully we build the Information Superhighway into teaching and learning experiences in Milwaukee.

We have a plan that is developing a broad-base of support. This plan will link each of our 6000 classrooms to the world via voice, data and interactive video communication. Training and curriculum reform to take full advantage of these enhanced capabilities are underway.

Milwaukee Public Schools is a large, urban district with high concentrations of poverty. We are also operating under state spending caps which limit our opportunities to pool resources needed to link our classrooms to the Information Superhighway. The E-rate will become an important element in addressing future communication requirements. \$2.25 billion will have a great impact and constitute a great beginning.

We are also interested in assuring that the funding reach urban districts like Milwaukee without having the impact diffused. The rules must be constructed to support the intent of the legislation. Your task is daunting, but you can be confident that Milwaukee is prepared to move forward. We will be successful, because the E-rate will create expanded opportunities for Milwaukee's students and teachers.

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 yours,

Doug Haselow
Chief Lobbyist

DH/dz

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COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
MAY 1 3 30 PM '97

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SUNSHINE PERIOD

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

4-21-97

MAY 1 4 24 PM '97

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN H. HARRIS

RECEIVED

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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

I am writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for schools and libraries as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November.

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

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

Thank you for your attention to this important matter for our schools and libraries – and – ultimately for us all, as a better educated community benefits everyone. Please do not hesitate to call if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,
Neil ³ Rosemary Costello

May 1, 1997

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

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner:

I am a school board member for the Burlington RE-6J District in Colorado. Thank you for your work and dedication in attempting to supply affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

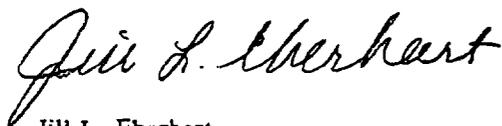
The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The proposed act will help address the needs of our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Internal classroom connections for discounts is, what I consider, a necessary part of this plan.

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

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

Thank you.

Yours truly,



Jill L. Eberhart
School Board Member

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SUNSHINE PERIOD

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

MAY 1 6 19 PM '97

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SECRETARIES

RECEIVED

96-45

USD 251

RECEIVED North Lyon County

Box 527

MAY 6 '97

Americus, Kansas 66835

Phone: 316-443-5116

Fax: 316-443-5659

Superintendent
Steven Mollach

Clerk
Mary Y. Oliver

Treasurer
Judith Mundy

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Board of Education
Gene Graber, President
Joe Fehr, Vice-President
Sherry Andersen
Kitty Frank
Ronda Hooper
Jerry Retallick
Roger Wells

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY
"Where Learning is a Journey, Not a Race"

April 16, 1997

SUNSHINE PERIOD

APR 21 2 53 PM '97

The Honorable James Quello, Commissioner
Federal Communication Commission
1919 NM Street, N.W., Room 802
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Quello:

My name is Steven Mollach and I am Superintendent of Schools of Unified School District #251 North Lyon County, Americus, Kansas. I realize in the very near future you will be reviewing and eventually voting on recommendations as they relate to the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Recently our Board of Education made a commitment of \$110,000. for an Interactive Distance Learning Lab for our schools. Yesterday, I reviewed the potential course offerings which included Calculus, Japanese, College Composition I and II, Economics, College Algebra, College Speech and we will be able to access the Astrophysical Observatory at Greenbush. We are extremely proud of this commitment but I am compelled to ask for your assistance so we can complete our vision for a small rural school system.

Our district needs the deep discounts the 1996 Act provides. While not depending on the discounts, the thought they could be available certainly entered into our pre-commitment discussions. Our line cost will be \$18,000. per year which, as I understand, is considered above the average cost in Kansas. Yes, we will find a way to fund the cost, but it only means another budget will suffer.

The need is here and the time is now for you to help our students reach their fullest potential. I urge you to support the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Steven Mollach
Superintendent of Schools

DISTRICT ATTENDANCE CENTERS

ADMIRE ELEMENTARY
Bill Stattelmann, Principal
100 East 3rd
Admire, Kansas 66830
316-528-3431

AMERICUS ELEMENTARY
Keith Entress, Principal
Box 497
Americus, Kansas 66835
316-443-5165

NORTHERN HEIGHTS HIGH
Don Duncan, Principal
1208 Road 345
Allen, Kansas 66833
316-528-3521

READING ELEMENTARY
Brad Butler, Principal
Box 38
Reading, Kansas 66868
316-699-3827

96-45

GREATER ROCHESTER
HEALTH SYSTEM

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
SUNSHINE PERIOD
RECEIVED

TO:.....

Elimination of distance charges is important to the rural communities served by health care providers. The expansion of telemedicine to the rural communities will be restricted because of high communication costs. Access to quality care will be greatly enhanced by providing comparable telehealth communications costs to the rural health care providers. Access to quality professionals and other resources is important to individuals in rural communities.

Not all health care providers have access to a toll free Internet Service Provider. Eligible providers should be able to receive assistance to help pay for toll charge's if they cannot connect by way of a local call

LTD

De-
pls for to the 3
Commissioners

National Association of Local Boards of Health

1840 East Gypsy Lane Road, Bowling Green, OH 43402
Telephone: (419) 353-7714 Facsimile: (419) 353-9680



OFFICERS

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(609) 984-2706

President-Elect

Larry Hudkins (NE)
(402) 441-7447

Secretary/Treasurer

Stephen J. Papenberg (NJ)
(908) 329-4000 ext. 237

Past President

Warren Jensen (UT)
(801) 864-3489

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Paul R. Jacobsen (MA)
(617) 624-5270

South East Region

Vaughn Mamlin Upshaw (NC)
(919) 663-3725

Mid East Region

Harvey Wallace, PhD (MI)
(906) 227-1135

Mid West Region

Diane Wartgow (CO)
(303) 526-0301

West Region

Connie Tatton (UT)
(801) 654-2416

State Affiliate

J. Frederick Agel (GA)
(770) 939-4320

State Affiliate

Grace M. Duncan (OH)
(330) 745-2915

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ned E. Baker, MPH

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED

MAY - 6 1997

9645

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 2, 1997

John Clark
Universal Service Branch
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Clark:

The following information is being provided to you per my telephone conversation of March 31, 1997 with Astrid Carlson.

In 1996, a survey of Local Boards of Health was conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in cooperation with the National Association of Local Boards of Health. The results of this survey entitled "A National Profile of Local Boards of Health" is still in draft form but will be released this year. Information contained in the draft version identifies 3,196 Local Boards of Health in the country. Of these, 1,376 participated in the survey. 70% (963) of these serve populations of 50,000 or less. Of these, 785 serve populations of 25,000 or less. These generally are rural counties and small communities.

I hope this information is helpful as you plan for telehealth communications to improve health in rural areas. Local Boards of Health and Local Health Departments are an important part of community based health particularly in rural areas. I have enclosed for your information, a copy of my earlier letter in support of recommendations by Secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala. You may also wish to be in contact with the National Association of County and City Health Officials for input.

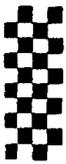
Please keep us informed on the status of this effort as we would be interested in keeping Local Boards of Health updated on this. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ned E. Baker, MPH
Executive Director

enclosure

cc: J. Saccenti
N. Rawding
D. Shalala
C. Bacon



96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED

MAY - 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

May 1, 1997

John Clark
Universal Services Branch
Federal Communications Commission
2100 M Street NW, Room 8619
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Clark:

As of April 1997, the number of Rural Health Clinics, all located in rural areas is 3,329. The source of these data is the Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services.

Yours truly,

Patricia Taylor, Ph.D.
Director of Research Programs
Office of Rural Health Policy
Health Services Resources and Services Administration
Department of Health and Human Services

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	5/2	# of pages	1
To	John Clark	From	Pat Taylor		
Co./Dept.		Co.			
Phone #		Phone #	919-966-5541		
Fax #	282-418-7361	Fax #			

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units



SUNSHINE PERIOD

96-43

April 30, 1997

MAY 6 1997

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
MAY 5 2 02 PM '97

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

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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

jl

SUNSHINE PERIOD

The Salk Institute for Biological Studies

96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
RECEIVED

April 28, 1997

MAY 6 1997

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW Room 814
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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 FERO, 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 cost 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 business, regardless of whether it is characterized as a "rate rebalancing" or "modification of rate structure". With all due respect, we believe that the imposition of such taxes is the business of the people's representatives, not appointed officials. Moreover, nationwide educational and health care initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all interested authorities, not just as a telecommunications matter by the FCC.

The time has come for the Commission to reform its rules governing access charges, which are more than # 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,



Vernell V. Fultz
Telecommunications Administrator
The Salk Institute

Cc: Chairman Reed E. Hundt

Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong

Commissioner James H. Quello

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OFFICE OF
COMMUNICATIONS
APR 28 1 50 PM '97



EPITOPE

April 24, 1997

Michael L. Dunton
Epitope Incorporated
8505 S.W. Creekside Place
Beaverton, Oregon 97005

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

We have learned, through our association in *The Information Technology and Telecommunications Association (TCA)*, that the *Federal Communications Commission (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. It is our understanding that these new fees are intended as support for 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, 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 responsibility of the citizen elected representatives, and not appointed officials. Furthermore, nationwide educational and health care initiatives should be considered on a comprehensive basis by all responsible authorities and 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,

Michael L. Dunton
Information and Telecommunication Systems Manager

cc: Chairman Reed E. Hundt, Commissioner James H. Quello, Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Elizabeth Furse, US Representative
Gordon Smith, US Senator
Ron Wyden, US Senator

Epitope Inc.
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SUSAN NESS

American Airlines®

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DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL April 29, 1997

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

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Dear Commissioner Ness:

We at American Airlines have recently become concerned with the direction Access Charge Reform appears to be taking at the FCC. We understand that under the FCC's plan, the burden of a transition to a new access charge and universal service regime has been disproportionately placed on multi-line business users. Compounding the impact of these new charges, we also understand the FCC does not plan to reduce access charges to reflect adjustments in the current price caps formula, despite the fact that formula adjustments are clearly appropriate and long overdue.

I respectfully request that the Commission reconsider these plans, which would, in our judgment, impose the equivalent of a new tax on American business. Although increased charges on business lines may be characterized as rate structure modification and rebalancing, the Commission proposal would, in practice, require businesses alone to pay for extending new telecommunications capabilities into schools and libraries.

It is time for the Commission to adjust the price caps formula to reflect demonstrated increases in LEC productivity, and thus reduce access charges paid by the IXCs and ultimately by end users. Evidence has been presented demonstrating that access charges are billions of dollars too high each year. Instead of disproportionately burdening some end users, we urge the FCC to reduce access charges for all end users.

Sincerely,



Scott Nason
Chief Information Officer

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INTERNATIONAL MASS
RETAIL ASSOCIATION

Robert J. Verdisco
President

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April 29, 1997

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MAY 6 1997

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

The International Mass Retail Association (IMRA), on behalf of the nation's price-competitive mass retail industry, strongly opposes the imposition of new monthly per-line charges on business telecommunications systems.

IMRA represents 170 mass retail chains that include full-line and specialty discount stores, home centers, catalog showrooms, dollar stores, variety stores, warehouse clubs, deep discount drugstores and off-price stores. Collectively, IMRA retail members operate more than 54,000 stores in the U.S. and abroad and employ well over a million people. IMRA's members represent the overwhelming majority of the approximately \$245 billion mass retail industry.

The Commission should reject any proposal that imposes such large, unwarranted burdens -- in effect, a new tax running into billions of dollars annually -- on U.S. businesses. Obviously, such a significant imposition demands Congressional attention, rather than being dropped on America's employers by regulatory action.

IMRA is also deeply concerned that the proposal does not adequately take into account other, far preferable alternatives for funding essential universal services -- including reductions in local access charges. Reductions, not just restructuring, of access charges would more than suffice to maintain the Universal Service Fund. IMRA urges the FCC not to adopt major new fees for business telecommunications users.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Verdisco
President, IMRA

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SUSAN NESS

Washington, DC Metropolitan Office

1700 North Moore Street • Suite 2250 • Arlington, VA 22209 • Phone 703.841.2300 • Fax 703.841.1184

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W. F. Madison
Vice President
Technology & Business Resources

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Marathon
Oil Company

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April 30, 1997

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

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

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Dear Chairman Hundt:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

William F. Madison

W.F. Madison

cc: Commissioner James Quello
Commissioner Rachelle Chong
Commissioner Susan Ness

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Independent Insurance Agents of America

INCORPORATED



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April 30, 1997

CAPITOL HILL OFFICE
SUITE 300
412 FIRST STREET, S.E.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003
202/863-7000
FAX 202/863-7015

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MAY 6 1997

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Received from the Commission
Office of Secretary

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

Dear Commissioner Ness,

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



California Lottery
 Headquarters
 600 North Tenth Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 (916) 327-7818

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
 Office of Secretary

April 25, 1997

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

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I understand that the FCC is considering a proposal to increase the business Subscriber Line Charge and to impose a new charge, reportedly called a FERC, 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 the California State Lottery (CSL) as well as other American businesses, I am 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 of \$40,500 per month (\$486,000 per year) on the CSL, regardless of whether it is characterized as a "rate rebalancing" or "modification of rate structures". With all due respect, I believe that the imposition of such taxes is the business of the people's representatives, not appointed officials. It should be noted that this amount of rate change forced upon the CSL really equates to a \$486,000 revenue shortfall for California education; education is the single recipient of all unexpended CSL administrative funds.

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,

William A. Brewer, Director
 Information Management & Services Division
 California State Lottery

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May 5, 1997

MAY 6 1997

Commissioners
FCC Commission
Washington, D.C.

Dear Commissioner Ness:

We are writing to request your support to vote on the universal service policy which is part of the implementation of the telecommunications Act of 1996. The key provision of the Act mandates the FCC to direct Telecommunications subsidies to schools, libraries and rural healthcare providers. As a rural health provider, we are extremely concerned about the effect of continuing the current rates and the potential for providing the services through this medium. The key to the provisions is the fact that distance charges currently prohibit most providers from the distance charges on a monthly basis. Without the subsidization of distance charges, the Telecommunication Acts benefits for rural health providers would be minimal.

Although we are fortunate to have non-toll charge access to an Internet service provider, it is clear that in other areas this is not available. Therefore, the proposal to support ISP charges is requested to also be supported in this vote so that improved access for information and services may be achieved for rural providers.

Thank you for your important consideration of these facts. Your positive vote in support of the universal service policy would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Gary W. Mitchell, CHE
Chief Executive Officer

GWM/vc



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May 5, 1997

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Commissioner Jim Quello 202/418-2802
Commissioner Rachelle Chong 202/418-2820
Commissioner Susan Ness 202/418-2821
Federal Communications Commission

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MAY 6 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

VIA FAX

Dear Commissioner:

Please vote to extend REAL universal service to rural America this week.

Colusa Community Hospital is a small rural hospital in Northern California. This request for help is sent via FAX because 60 miles north of the California's state capital we still do not have toll-free internet access.

Later this week, you will be voting on whether small rural hospitals like ours can have reasonable access rates to the same telecommunications services our urban neighbors have enjoyed for several years. I urge you to help make this happen! Rural America has been bypassed by the information super-highway because neither the FCC nor the state PUCs has made it a priority.

I know the value of telemedicine in rural health. Our hospital is one of the "top ten telemedicine sites" in the nation (December, Telemedicine and Telehealth Networks). We have tested and proven the concept of linking rural health professionals with urban consultants to improve the health of our patients. The lack of access to an adequate telecommunications network denies this technology to most of rural America. Please help tear down this wall by voting to eliminate or subsidize the onerous distance charges levied by the carriers.

As the Chairman of California's Rural Hospital Association, I know your vote will have a dramatic impact on our 75 small and rural hospitals. Access to the internet and realistic toll charges will make high quality medical services available to all Americans. The purpose of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 is to level the health playing field between urban and rural residents. Without your vote to reduce the cost of rural access that won't happen.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Bland, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Congressman Vic Fazio (D-CA)