



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

Dear Chairman Hundt,

A leading economic forecasting firm, The WEFA Group, has predicted that Southwestern Bell's entry into the long-distance market would help spur employment and economic growth in Oklahoma. According to The WEFA forecast, approximately 10,250 additional jobs and an additional \$712 million in real Gross State Product would be realized.

As executive director of the Tulsa Economic Development Corporation (TEDC), those numbers were like music to my ears – particularly the estimate of 4,147 new jobs created in Tulsa alone. Obviously, I support this application and urge you to do the same.

Actually, I'm not surprised by The WEFA numbers. Already, several companies in recent years have relocated to our community, citing Tulsa's and Oklahoma's centralized location in the United States as one key reason. Our central location, as they well know, results in lower product transportation expenses and in *lower long-distance bills*. It seems only logical that even more companies would be interested in our area when, as a result of Southwestern Bell's entry into the market, long-distance bills decrease even more.

The opportunity for further relocation of businesses into Tulsa is, of course, just one of many reasons for supporting this application. There is also the consideration of our current large, medium and small businesses -- not to mention the state's residential customers -- all of which stand to gain from Southwestern Bell's entry. The fact is, all Oklahomans will benefit once the application is approved.

You, Mr. Chairman, can help assure those benefits by approving Southwestern Bell's filing for long-distance service.

Sincerely,

Frank F. McCrady
Executive Director
Tulsa Economic Development Corporation

CC: Commissioner James Quello
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Rachelle Chong ✓

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DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 22, 1997

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MAY 1 1997

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MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

April 14, 1997

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

Re: CC Docket Number 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am a classroom teacher from Platte County R-3, 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 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,



Janet Leachman

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 12, 1997

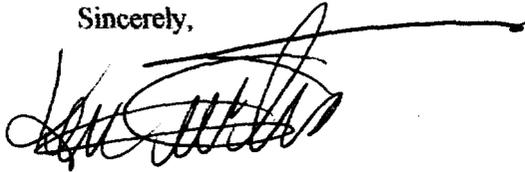
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington DC 20554

Re: CC Docket Number 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

Please support the discounting recommendations for public education in the matter of
Telecommunications equipment for public schools and libraries. We need it!!

Sincerely,



Ken Curtis
157 Quimwood
Valley Park, MO 63088

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997



San Ysidro
School District

Excellence is our goal

Governing Board

Jean A. Romero, President
Ernestine Jones, Clerk
Luis Antonio Figueroa, Member
Yolanda Hernandez, Member
Juan M. Trujillo, Member

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Julian T. Lopez, Ph.D.
Superintendent

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

April 17, 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am the superintendent of the San Ysidro School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country, and more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Julian T. Lopez
Superintendent

CLARENDON SCHOOL DISTRICT TWO
15 MAJOR DRIVE
POST OFFICE BOX 1252
MANNING, SOUTH CAROLINA 29102

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

ROSE H. WILDER, ED. D.
SUPERINTENDENT

TELEPHONE:
803/435-4435
FAX:
803/435-8172

April 15, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 29554

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am a superintendent from Clarendon School District Two, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

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

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.

Thank you,

Sincerely,



Rose Hilliard-Wilder, Ed.D
Superintendent

South Fayette Township School District



2250 OLD OAKDALE ROAD
McDONALD, PENNSYLVANIA 15057
(412) 221-4542
FAX (412) 693-2883

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
DR. LINDA B. HIPPERT
Superintendent

April 21, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W., Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communication Commission
Office of Enforcement

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

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 in order 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda B. Hippert".

Linda B. Hippert, Ed. D
Superintendent of Schools

pc: Board of School Directors

millard

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Curriculum Offices • 5606 So. 147th St. • Omaha, NE 68137-2604 • (402) 895-8301 • (Fax) 895-8448

April 21, 1997

The Honorable James Quello, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 "M" Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20054

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20541

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello,

I am the Director of Secondary Education for Millard Public Schools in Omaha, Nebraska, 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.

As you know, the Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts 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 the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, especially in light of all the "cuts" occurring here in Nebraska.

The "discounts" would assist us greatly in the following areas:

1. **Distance Learning.** In a sparsely populated state like Nebraska, distance learning connections are essential options for increasing the curriculum available to students. If the cost is too great, this cannot happen.
2. **Network Bandwidth.** Our current data network uses a fairly low speed technology because it is less expensive. This, in turn, limits what we can do with management software and communications technology. We want to upgrade our system when it is affordable.
3. **Media Services.** One specific illustration of bandwidth limitation is the information sources now available through our media centers. We know of some other good online options, but our system is too slow to use them. We think the situation of what we need, but cannot afford, is a similar issue for most school systems.
4. **Efficiency.** Technology is making more current information available when needed for those who have access. This allows decision-makers to be more productive and to make truly informed decisions. We support the President's goal of fixing the access problem. Anything that makes entry more affordable is a step in the right direction.
5. **Student Learning.** Networks are changing how everyone has access to information and expanding what is available. It will not be acceptable if some students have this advantage and others do not. Students need access for their learning while in school and thinking about possible careers.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Kleinsmith, Ed.D.
Director of Secondary Education

c: Dr. Keith Lutz, Superintendent

FRANKLIN AREA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
FRANKLIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
PONE LANE
FRANKLIN, PA 16232

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

21. April, 1997

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919M Street N.W. Room 814
Washington, D. C. 20554

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

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—mandate 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 will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

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

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

Sincerely,

Mrs. Angler
Vice President

CC96-45

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

1700 Via Casoli
Monterey, Ca 93940
April 23, 1997

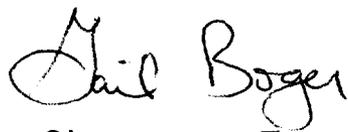
Hon. Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Chong,

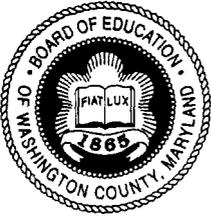
In reference to the e-rate draft rules (CC Docket No.96-95), a YES vote would be greatly appreciated. Schools would benefit from this proposal's cost reduction and allow many to provide telecommunication capabilities to their students at the school sites.

Your support is vital to schools across this nation. Please vote YES for the e-rate draft rules.

Sincerely,



Classroom Teacher
Foothill School
Monterey, Ca



B. MARIE BYERS
President

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

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

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL RECEIVED

April 29, 1997

MAY 1 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

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

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RECEIVED

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

MAY 1 1997

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

April 21, 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong,

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.

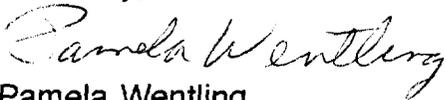
The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly,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

TAMAQUA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOX 112 - TAMAQUA, PA 18252
Phone: (717) 668-2570 - FAX: (717) 668-6850

RAYMOND C. KINDER
Superintendent

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
FREDERICK T. BAUSCH
Assistant Superintendent

MARIE K. GURSKY
Business Manager

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



April 28, 1997

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

REC'D
MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am Assistant Superintendent for the Tamaqua Area School District 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.

As we wrestle with the development of LAN's, WAN's and internet access, we are faced with several challenges. They include the logistics involved when integrating the use of current technology to enhance instruction as well as the financial constraints which are a fact of life for a school district. The implementation of the Telecommunications Act can assist us as we strive to provide the best resources while controlling costs.

Our students would benefit from 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,

Frederick T. Bausch
Assistant Superintendent

FTB/jmd



CORNELL SCHOOL DISTRICT
1099 MAPLE STREET • CORAOPOLIS, PENNSYLVANIA 15108

ADMINISTRATION
Orlando A. Falcione, Superintendent
Dennis J. Johnson, Principal

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBERS
Administrative 412-264-5010
Senior High School 412-264-5012
Junior High School 412-264-5313
Elementary School 412-264-7503
FAX 412-264-1445

April 22, 1997

MAY 1 1997

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

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am the Technology Coordinator for the Cornell School District 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 Cornell School District is one of the smallest districts in Pennsylvania and is also among this area's poorest. By connecting every classroom to the wealth of information available via the Internet we can begin to level the playing field between the haves and the have-nots. This year we are embarking on an ambitious technology plan that will connect all of the classrooms in our schools to an internal network. By accessing reduced cost connections with the Information Superhighway, we can leverage the power of the computers to effectively enable our students to learn. Through an aggressive evening access program, we can offer the community at large an opportunity to access this information and improve their skills more effectively than through any other means. Cornell School District is taking the first steps towards a better-educated, more employable population. Reduced access to the Information Superhighway is a critical component to the success of our project.

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.

Cordially,

Kenneth J Norris
Technology Coordinator

URBANA HIGH SCHOOL
3471 CAMPUS DRIVE
LJAMSVILLE, MARYLAND 21754
301-874-6191
FAX: 301-874-6189

CC96-45

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 24, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

Rachelle Chong
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Chong:

We are the Technology Committee from Urbana High School in Frederick County, Maryland. We are writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries that have been recommended by the Joint Board.

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

The schools in our county have very limited access to the Internet usually through a single phone line. We will never be able to afford more access for all schools unless discounts are provided. School funding is stagnant, while our technology needs are growing.

We are fortunate at our school to have access to a 56kb line. This is a great improvement over one line, however it is slow with the number of users we have. We have over 400 computers in our school which we would like to connect to the Internet. Without the discounts we will never be able to reach our goal. Our teachers and students realize the value of the Internet and are anxious to use it for projects. It opens up many new avenues of information that were not traditionally available to students.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Urbana High School Technology Committee

Sandra L. Foggett
Deborah M. High
George E. Chew
Bruce Row



INTERNATIONAL MASS
RETAIL ASSOCIATION

Robert J. Verdisco
President

CC96-48

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April 29, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

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

Dear Commissioner Chong:

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

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

To : The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
From: Carole Budilov
Special Education Teacher
Hatboro Horsham High School
899 Horsham Road
Horsham, PA 19044

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

4/25/97

Dear Commissioner Chong,

I am a teacher from Hatboro Horsham School District and 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 Federal Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all the schools, and give services directly to the classrooms. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to all students and educators. It will help us get the students ready for the next millenium.

As a special education teacher I have already included resources for my classes. We have connected to the Internet and communicated with people in other countries that we have been studying. It is a great hands-on tool for all students to be exposed to while in a classroom setting.

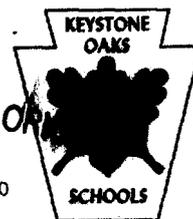
Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your support.
Sincerely,

Carole Budilov
Carole Budilov

KEYSTONE OAKS SCHOOL DISTRICT

DOCKET FILE COPY OF



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

1000 KELTON AVENUE, PITTSBURGH, PA 15216-2487 • 412/571-6000

April 28, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

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

RE: CC DOCKET NO. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

On May 8, 1997, when you vote on the FCC Federal State Joint Board's recommendation to provide significant discounts for all telecommunication 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 effort to prepare students for their future in which sixty percent 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 effort to integrate technology into the curriculum. We are committed to providing our students with the computer skills that business demands and that our work force will need to maintain our competitiveness in a global economy. The Keystone Oaks School District possesses a significant infrastructure for all students to use technology in the learning process. Our major cost will be line access charges.

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

Sincerely,

Chet C. Kent, Ph.D., J.D.
Superintendent

jf

**Shippensburg Area School District
317 North Morris Street
Shippensburg, PA 17257
717-530-2700**

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am the Assistant Business Administrator from the Shippensburg Area School District in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. One of my duties is working with our schools to advance technology for our students. I would like to thank you for your efforts in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

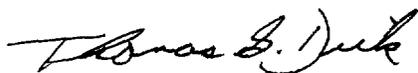
The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will provide even the poorest school districts the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country. More importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom to enhance student learning. The inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to making learning accessible.

We plan to use the discounts available to provide internet connections in our classrooms and libraries. Teaching students how to use the new technology will be vital in preparing our students to enter the ever changing workforce of 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 for your time.

Sincerely,



Thomas G. Dick
317 North Morris Street
Shippensburg, PA 17257



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT 18 DOCKET FILE COPY
Franklin School District - Hill School District



119 Central Street
Franklin, New Hampshire 03235
(603) 934-3108 • FAX (603) 934-3462

SUPERINTENDENT
Edgar R. Melanson

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
Kathleen T. Bateson

READING SUPERVISOR
TITLE I DIRECTOR
Jacqueline Verville, Ed. D.

DIRECTOR OF
SPECIAL EDUCATION
Michael Hoyt

FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR
Joan Hinds

FAMILY LITERACY
COORDINATOR
Connie Brown

SUPERVISOR OF BUILDINGS
& GROUNDS
Roger Hutchinson

FRANKLIN SCHOOLS:

PAUL A. SMITH
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Principal: Wilbur Roberge, Ed.D.

BESSIE C. ROWELL
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Principal: Sheril Polisner

FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL
Principal: Barry Albert
Ass't. to the Principal:
Alan Davis

FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL
Principal: Robert Retchless, Ed.D.
Ass't. Principal: Wm. Athanas

HILL SCHOOL:

JENNIE D. BLAKE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Principal: Sally Fisher

April 24, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

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

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

I am a superintendent of schools from the Franklin 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 that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the work force for tomorrow.

The Franklin School District is one of the poorest school districts in New Hampshire. Presently, we have no Internet connections because we cannot afford telephone lines and the internal wiring. Obviously, we have no wiring or computer connections within classrooms for networking in any of our five schools. We are only able to obtain dated computers of the 286, 386 and Macintosh Classic vintage, as well as other used technologies.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Edgar R. Melanson
Superintendent of Schools

LOUISIANA HYDROELECTRIC

LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

Administrative Office
409 Texas Street
Via Telefax

Vidalia, Louisiana 71373-3320
April 24, 1997

(318) 336-9666
Fax (318) 336-9062

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Fax: 202-418-2820
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1997

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Chong:

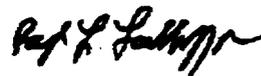
I am a businessman from Vidalia, Louisiana and Concordia Parish, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. As an active partner in education with the Concordia Parish School District, which is located within the Macon Ridge Economic Development enterprise zone, we are vitally interested in raising the standard of education within our rural school district through technology. Without continued improvements in our local labor force, we will not be able to contact industries and create stable job opportunities for our area.

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

Monies available from these access discounts would be used specifically to improve physical technical facilities and the training for our dedicated 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.

Sincerely,



Ralph L. Laukhuff, Jr.
Executive Vice-President
Chief Operating Officer

RLLJr/sm



Elko County School District

Central Administrative Office

TELEPHONE (702) 738-5196

FAX (702) 738-5857

P. O. BOX 1012

Elko, Nevada 89803

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DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL APR 28 4 04 PM '97

JAMES M. QUELLO

April 21, 1997

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

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1997
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: CC Docket Number 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

As Director of Instruction for Elko County School District, I am writing to urge your support for the "E-rate" discount. As a geographically large rural school district located in Northeastern Nevada it has been difficult to bring technology to our schools located in isolated parts of the county. We have several communities that have high levels of minorities and poverty with little in the way of the infrastructure to access technology and I see potential in this proposal to significantly impact our ability to provide connectivity.

In particular the communities in Owyhee, Nevada (Native American Reservation) and Jackpot, Nevada (High Hispanic Population) would be a high priority for Elko County School District to seek out and provide telecommunication infrastructure discounts for Internet and distance learning opportunities under this act.

Your efforts in support of this act can help our most rural and under-served populations gain affordable access to the information superhighway.

Sincerely,

William McLeod
Director of Instruction

cc: **Marcia R. Bandera, Superintendent**

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APR 28 4 16 PM '97

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

April 14, 1997

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

Re: CC Docket Number 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

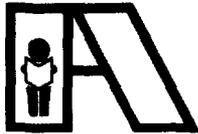
I am a classroom teacher from Lee's Summit, MO, R-7 School District, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

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 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,

Laura Maxwell



Arcadia Unified School District

234 Campus Drive • Arcadia, California 91007 • (818) 447-9223 • Fax (818) 821-8647

Governing Board
Mary E. Daugherty
Maryann Gibson
Michael D. Lamb
John R. McClain
Joann E. Steinmeier

Superintendent
Terrence M. Towner, Ed.D.

~~EX PARTE OR LAST FILED~~

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 22, 1997

James Quello, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW, Room 802
Washington, D.C. 20544

MAY 1 1997

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Quello:

I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am a locally elected school board member from Arcadia Unified School District and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country, and more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the side of the Universal Services Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Joann E. Steinmeier
President of the Governing Board

CC96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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OAKWOOD SCHOOL

APR 20 4 15 PM '97

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

James Alan Astman, Ph.D.
Headmaster

JAMES ALAN ASTMAN

April 22, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

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

Dear Commissioner Quello,

I am James Astman, Headmaster of Oakwood School in North Hollywood, California, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in 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 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 the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital, as is your inclusion of Internet Service Provider costs. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Oakwood is committed to technology both in its program and in its operation. Our goal is to provide access for every single student in our school, throughout the grades. Substantial discounts for telecommunication services this year will help ensure that access here and elsewhere. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



James Alan Astman
Headmaster

JAA:lh



REGISTERED

Grass Valley School District

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

APR 20 4 15 PM '97

Jon C. Byerrum
Superintendent
Vicki Brown
Asst. Superintendent

JAMES P. QUELLO

April 22, 1997

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

MAY 1 1997

10840 Gilmore Way
Grass Valley, CA 95945-5409
(916) 273-4483
Fax (916) 273-0248

Bell Hill School
(916) 273-6416

Hennessy School
(916) 273-2281

Scotten School
(916) 273-6472

Lyman Gilmore Middle School
(916) 273-8479

Grass Valley Charter School
(916) 273- 8723

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

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Mr. Quello,

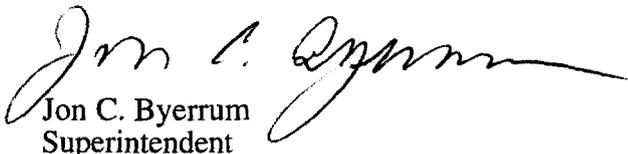
I am writing to you in regards to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. I am the superintendent of the Grass Valley School District, and I would like to express my strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country, and more importantly, the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. It is important to remember that each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program. Therefore, the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. As I am sure you are aware, this program is essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue and our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,


Jon C. Byerrum
Superintendent

JCB:bb