

Michigan Technological University



1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, Michigan 49931-1295

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Office of the Executive Vice President
and Provost

Phone: 906/487-2440

FAX: 906/487-2935

May 2, 1997

Chairman Reed E. Hundt
Commissioner James E. Quello
Commissioner Rachelle B. Chong
Commissioner Susan Ness

Federal Communications Commissions
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Reference: "Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262"

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

It has come to our attention that the FCC may approve significant increases in telephone Subscriber Line Charges (SLC) and Pre-Subscriber Line surcharges (PSLC) for multi-line business customers plus levy a "universal service social agenda obligation fee" for Cellular, PCS, and Paging services. Colleges and universities affected by these increases will in effect be major players in underwriting the FCC costs to implement requirements of the 1996 Telecommunications ACT for discounted telecommunications services to K-12 schools, libraries, rural health facilities, and lifeline services.

Universal telecommunications access for every citizen is an important national goal, and a Universal Service Fund may be needed to accomplish this worthy goal. While the end result of these charges has merit, the FCC must consider the impact of these increases on Higher Education Institutions, especially publicly-funded institutions.

We would encourage the Commission to review the impact of the proposed changes and the financial implications for Higher Education Institutions. It should be remembered that increased charges on the general business public eventually find their way back to the consumer and to Higher Education Institutions in the form of higher costs for goods and services.

The impact of the proposed increases at Michigan Tech is estimated to be over \$288,000 annually. We cannot afford to absorb this increase without raising tuition/fees or jeopardizing other programs and services at the University.

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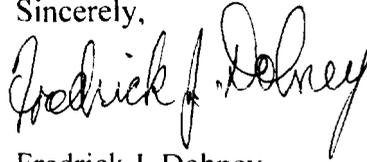
"Ex Parte Communication in CC Docket No. 96-262"

May 2, 1997

Page 2

The affordability of a college education is already a struggle for many. We hope that you will not inadvertently rob higher education or make it inaccessible in order to benefit K-12 schools, libraries, rural health facilities and lifeline services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fredrick J. Dobney". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Fredrick J. Dobney

Executive Vice President and Provost

cc: Senator Carl Levin
Senator Spencer Abraham
Congressman Bart Stupak
Brian Moir, Attorney
Jeri Semer, Executive Director, ACUTA
Jim Cross, Vice Provost for Information Technology, MTU

96-262

From: "Christy Michael" <MHAChristy@msn.com>
To: A7.A7(SNESS)
Date: 5/6/97 11:12am

Dear Commissioner Susan Ness:

SUNSHINE PERIOD

It is our understanding that the Federal Communications Commission is scheduled to vote this week to adopt regulations governing "universal service" policies as part of the implementation of the Telecommunication Act of 1996.

The universal service policies of the Act mandate that the FCC direct telecommunication rate subsidies to schools, libraries and rural health providers. In the case of health care, the FCC must make telecommunication rates for eligible health care providers comparable to telecommunications rates for similar services in urban areas.

The goal of this provision is to lessen the difference between the quality of health care services available in urban areas and those in rural areas, many of which suffer from a lack of health care resources and access to medical professionals, as well as the burden of being at greater distances from advanced medical technology and treatment facilities.

We feel that "telehealth" has the potential to help our member hospitals and health systems improve the quality and lessen the cost of health care delivery in rural areas. That's why we hope to will help keep the telecommunications costs for our facilities as low as possible by adopting the following policy positions related to universal service provisions:

- * Universal service should support distance charges.
- * Universal service should support toll-free connections to the Internet.

Thank you for you immediate consideration and support on this issue. If I can provide additional information, or be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brent Alexander
Vice President for Government Relations and Communications

BA/clm

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**Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary**



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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

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46-262

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Walled Lake Consolidated Schools

William Hamilton, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, K-12

Educational Services Center
850 Ladd Road, Building D
Walled Lake, MI 48390
Phone: 810/960-8314
FAX: 810/624-3123

April 30, 1997

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

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am writing to thank you for your dedication and commitment to ensure that all schools have affordable access to the information highway. The creation of a Universal Service Fund to discount telecommunication services for every school and library in the country is the first major initiative to address the needs of our nation's students. This joint effort between the government and businesses will provide the schools with the electronic communications that will allow us to prepare our students for the workforce of tomorrow. I am very disappointed to hear that some telecommunications providers are attempting to undermine this implementation plan by drastically reducing the size of the Universal Service Fund and eliminating the guaranteed discounts for key areas such as classroom connections and Internet use. I am confident, however, that your support of the joint boards discount plan for the universal service for all schools and libraries in the nation will provide for the best educational environment for our students. Your support of this major initiative is truly appreciated .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William A. Hamilton', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

William A. Hamilton, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, K-12

WAH:rih

96-262

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

May 1, 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

Dear Commissioner Ness:

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

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century. As of now our school system is unable to afford Internet capabilities to extend access to each classroom. Our local telephone company has been reluctant to give our schools reduced rates. We would like for our students to have the same opportunities that are afforded to students in more affluent areas. Without the passage of the Telecommunications Act, there is very little hope that we will ever be able to provide this opportunity.

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

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

Sincerely,

Shelby Meeks

96-262

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

SUNSHINE PERIOD

May 1, 1997

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Sincerely,

Pinkie Clark

46-262

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

May 1, 1997

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1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

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Sincerely,

Elaine Neal

96-262

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
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May 1, 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

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**Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary**

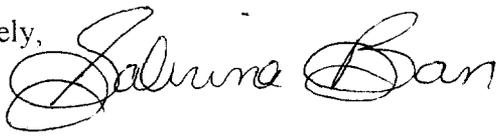
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Sincerely,

Wim Fowler

916-262

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
SUNSHINE PERIOD

MAY 6 9 33 AM '97

May 1, 1997

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Sincerely,

Cynthia W. Stapleton

96-262

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUNSHINE PERIOD

May 1, 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

MAY 6 9 34 AM '97 RECEIVED
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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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Sincerely,

Mildred C. Brewer

96-262

RECEIVED **SUNSHINE PERIOD**
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUNSHINE PERIOD

May 1, 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
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Sincerely,

Marcia Cravey

96-262

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OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER SUSAN NESS

MAY 6 9 35 AM '97

RECEIVED MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission Office of Secretary

May 1, 1997

Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 832
Washington, D.C. 20054

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Sincerely,

Barbara Moore

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUNSHINE PERIOD

95-262

MAY 6 9 36 AM '97

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am a member of the Conemaugh Valley School District's Technology Committee, 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.

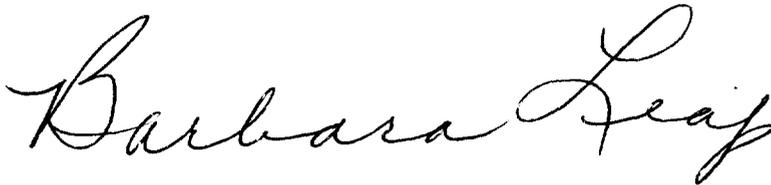
The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and, importantly, the plan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



RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SHAR HUBB

95-262
SUNSHINE PERIOD

MAY 6 9 36 AM '97

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

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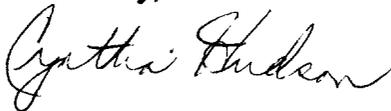
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The Conemaugh Valley School District would use the discounts to develop secondary and elementary school wide area networks which would provide Internet connectivity for approximately 1200 elementary and secondary school students and staff.

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,



96-252

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
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MAY 6 9 36 AM '97

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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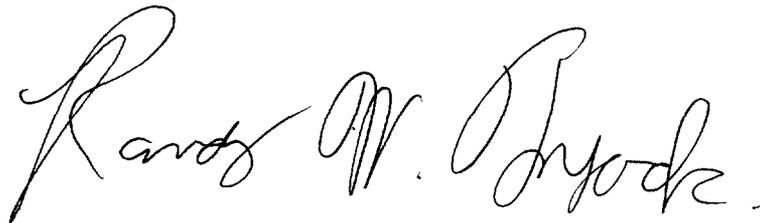
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Thank you.

Sincerely,





Administrative Information Technology
Support Services
1401 Presque Isle Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855-5331
906 227-2999
FAX: 906 227-1890

SUNSHINE PERIOD

96-262

EX PARTE COMMUNICATION IN CC DOCKET NO. 96-262

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MAY 6 1997

May 1, 1997

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Northern Michigan University is very concerned with potential cost increases associated with proposals the FCC is considering for funding Universal Service. We recommend that colleges and universities be exempt from the increase in multi-line Subscriber Line Charges that are designated to be used for Universal Service. In many cities, our included, it is the higher ed institutions that provide the infrastructure and facilities by which K-12 schools and public libraries connect to the Internet or provide distance learning.

Sincerely,

Felecia Flack
Director of Support Services

FF:mg

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COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
May 1 5 46 PM '97

96-262

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I am a member of the Conemaugh Valley School District's Technology Committee, 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,

Michelle M. Locher

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
STUART WELLS

96-252
SUNSHINE PERIOD

MAY 6 9 36 AM '97

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

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Thank you.

Sincerely, *Marianne Stude*

96-262

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SUNSHINE PERIOD

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96-262

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SUSAN NESS

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96-262

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SUNSHINE PERIOD

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96-262

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COMMUNICATIONS

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jamie Ritter

46-262

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUNSHINE PERIOD

SUNSHINE PERIOD

MAY 6 9 36 AM '97

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Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gloria J. Geller

95-262

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUGAR HILL

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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Anna Tuckovich