



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

Edward T. Schafer
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Tony Knowles
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Vice Chairman

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(202) 624-5402
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April 29, 1997

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

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Re: Universal Service Rules; Healthcare providers and
254(h)(1)(A) of the 1996 Act

96-262
SUNSHINE PERIOD
RECEIVED
MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

As you know, the Western Governors' Association (WGA) has actively participated in the FCC's process to implement the healthcare provisions in the 1996 Telecommunications Act. We write once more to urge you to do all you can to make telemedicine and other healthcare uses of the telecommunications network as cost-effective and as workable as possible.

Specifically, with your rules due to be published shortly, the WGA again asks you to eliminate the user costs associated with mileage-based charges. In the West and in many other parts of the country, where traditional charges penalize those who live and work far outside urban areas, telemedicine providers continue to struggle to pay charges with high mileage components. This is precisely the reason Congress called for comparability between urban and rural areas in the 1996 Act. In order to obviate the effects of distance, rural charges for certain health care providers should be "reasonably comparable" to charges for similar services in urban areas. Without this comparability, the benefits promised in this part of the Act will never be realized.

Related to the mileage charge issue, I understand the Commission continues to debate the wisdom of its order directing toll-free Internet access for health care providers who lack local Internet service. You should clearly apply the comparability standard here as well. At this point Internet service is the standard vehicle for a great deal of public service communications, including healthcare. Full use of this application will be delayed in rural areas unless it is reasonably priced. Please take the opportunity to make Internet access affordable for rural health care providers.

Thank you again for considering the needs of the West in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Edward T. Schafer
WGA Chairman
Governor of North Dakota

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF
SECRETARY
APR 29 3 29 PM '97

To : The Honorable Susan Ness
From: Carole Budilov
Special Education Teacher
Hatboro Horsham High School
899 Horsham Road
Horsham, PA 19044

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness,

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

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

96-262

4/25/97

MAY 1 4 24 PM '97

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COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS



96-262

Santa Maria-Bonita School District

RECEIVED

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Gail M. Tissier, Ed.D.
Superintendent

MAY 6 1997

SOUZA STUDENT SUPPORT CENTER
708 South Miller Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454-6221
(805) 928-1783, Ext. 235

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

SENT VIA FACSIMILE & U. S. MAIL

May 1, 1997

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

Dear Ms. Ness:

The Santa Maria-Bonita School District, located on the Central Coast of California, is involved in implementing its long-range technology plan. Because most of our schools are over 30 years old, each needs to be rewired to meet the demands of technology. We have gone to bid for the wiring of our classrooms and each time the cost has been prohibitive.

It is our understanding that on May 8, 1997, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will vote on the final rules for dispersing as much as \$2.25 billion in telecommunications discounts for schools and libraries. This truly is a miracle! Our schools drastically need this support to bring educational technology to our children to meet the demands of the 21st Century.

Our school board set aside some money, however, it is not enough to bring the infrastructure of educational technology to our students' classrooms. Also, if we use this money to wire our schools then there will be no money left to purchase the hardware and software necessary to integrate our curriculum with the wonderful software support systems that presently exist for children.

The Santa Maria-Bonita School District strongly encourages the FCC to approve the recommendations of the Federal-State Joint Board for Universal Service for implementation of the discount plan to meet the requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Our school district has a very high concentration of economically disadvantaged students. These students need all the help and support that can be provided to assist them in reaching high academic standards. By approving the Federal-State Joint Board for Universal Service recommendations for implementation of the discount plan, you will greatly help bring about the academic success of our students.

Our students will truly be engaged in a global world of communications broadening their understanding of the world in which they live. Please make this miracle become a reality for our students by voting to approve the Federal-State Joint Board for Universal Service recommendations.

Sincerely,

Gail M. Tissier
GAIL M. TISSIER, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

c SMBSD Board of Education
The Honorable Barbara Boxer
The Honorable Walter Capps
The Honorable Diane Feinstein
State Superintendent Delaine Eastin
California Public Utilities Commission

96-262

1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 403
Washington, DC 20004-1701
USA

Telephone 202 628 8421
Fax 202 628 8424
E-mail: oitp@alawash.org
http://www.ala.org/oitp/

Office for Information
Technology Policy

SUNSHINE PERIOD

ALA American Library Association

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

FAX TRANSMITTAL

To: Chairman Reed Hundt 418 2801
 Commissioner Rachelle Chong 418 2820
 Commissioner Susan Ness 418 2821
 Commissioner James Quello 418 2802

From: Andrew Magpantay, Director, OITP

Re: CC 96-45: Universal Service

Date: May 2, 1997

Pages: 2, including this cover sheet.

RECEIVED
 OFFICE OF
 COMMUNICATIONS
 MAY 5 8 30 AM '97

Please find a copy of a letter to the editor by LeVar Burton that appeared in this morning's USA Today. The letter deals with the critical issue of providing discounts to schools and libraries and the impact that it will have.



ZBA - FRIDAY, MAY 2, 1997 - USA TODAY

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

LETTERS

Schools, libraries need discount online charges

Schools and public libraries can and should be critical links to the Internet for people of all ages. Only about a fifth of U.S. families now have Internet access at home. For those who can't afford computers and online charges, their school or public library is a natural access point.

Supported largely by tax dollars, libraries are the heart of our nation's information infrastructure. They provide books, encyclopedias and other resources for people of all ages and backgrounds. Providing access to electronic information is a natural extension of this role.

And librarians are there to help us use the Internet and make wise choices about the wealth of information available.

But according to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, fewer than a third of America's public libraries can now offer direct public Internet access.

The main barrier? Most libraries, especially those in remote areas, can't afford the high cost of long distance and other telecommunications charges.

Relief is in sight but only if the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) acts promptly to ensure deep discounts on telecommunications charges.

The Telecommunications Act passed by Congress last year designates libraries and schools as universal providers eligible for such discounts on telecommunications rates. The FCC is expected to announce how large the discounts will be and to what services they will apply.

These discounts are desperately needed if our nation's libraries and schools are to get on with the urgent business of providing the public with online connections.

For the nation's most profitable industry, these discounts are a small investment in increased consumer exposure that can potentially add to their profits.

It's up to the FCC to turn Congress' good intentions into reality. Sixty percent of the jobs created by the year 2000 will require Americans to be computer literate.

Without significant discounts for schools and libraries, 21st century information technology will remain a science-fiction fantasy for millions of children and adults.

LeVar Burton, member
Nat'l. Commission on Libraries
and Information Science
Chicago, Ill.

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Jason Taylor, *Southfield HS*



96-262
SUNSHINE PERIOD ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Marlene E. Davis
Superintendent of Schools
Associate Superintendents
Phyllis A. Burton
James G. Feil
John W. English *Administrative Center*
24861 Lahser Road
Southfield, Michigan 48034
PHONE: (810) 746-8500
FAX: (810) 746-8540

SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Wednesday 30 April 1997

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MAY 6 1997

Susan Ness, *Commissioner*
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832
Washington DC 20554
Fax: 202-418-2821

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Thank you for your commitment to support an educational rate which will provide every school and library in the country with discounted services for telecommunications.

The proposed e-rate plan will begin to address some of the needs of our students in our nation's schools. This joint effort between the government and businesses will provide the schools with the electronic communications that will allow us to prepare our students for the workforce of tomorrow.

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

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

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely

Marlene E. Davis, Ph.D.
Superintendent

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MAY 1 5 40 PM '97
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS



96-262

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

SUNSHINE PERIOD

EX PARTE COMMUNICATION IN CC DOCKET NO. 96-262

May 1, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

MAY 1 5 48 PM '97

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

96-262

From: jeffery lockwood <munchie@rockford.com>
To: A7.A7(SNESS)
Date: 5/6/97 9:33am

hi

i would like my voice to be heard on your new proposal for a (modem tax).i pay enough taxes already and don't think that consumers,isp,and online service providers should be singled out by your new proposal. i feel that the government should let schools and misc hook up through server like the one your using.Why should i have to pay more for my phone,when i'm allready paying taxes for schools and other gov. agencies.it seems to me that you haven't looking into other optionsmyou just want tax payers to foot the bill again!!!!!!so i would like you to know that I DO OPPOSE THIS BILL and would like all gov. agencies to look before you leap!!!!!!

thank you for your time

munchie (jeffery lockwood)

jeffery a lockwood

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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MAY 6 1997

**Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary**

96-262

From: Patrick Rosenheim <Patrick.Rosenheim@pandabbs.com>
To: A7.A7(SNESS)
Date: 5/6/97 12:51am
Subject: FCC Vote On "Modem Tax"

SUNSHINE PERIOD

* Original message addressed to: rhundt@fcc.gov.
* Carbon copies sent to: jquello@fcc.gov, sness@fcc.gov, rchong@fcc.gov.

Dear Mr. Hundt, Mr. Quello, Ms. Ness, and Ms. Chong;

I would like to suggest that you reconsider your vote on the "Modem Tax".

I believe this "Modem Tax" is unfair, and possibly unconstitutional.

Please devote more time to study the alternatives (e.g., Net Day, access through existing state Internet networks).

I also believe the tax is structured to specifically punish Internet and online services and their subscribers. If the tax is necessary, it should be applied to all consumers and all businesses.

I think there has been insufficient study of the subject. There is little or no data to support the need for the tax, or to indicate whether the current proposal will be enough to do the job.

Sincerely,

Patrick Rosenheim

With Warm Regards For You and Yours From Your Friend in Danvers Massachusetts;
P@, a.k.a. Panda, email: panda@pandabbs.com, SATINS Whipping Boy and Treasurer
Member: AOP * Fido N330EC * Ask about TRANSX (FTS<>email) or FiFTP (FTS<>FTP)!
--- timEd/2 1.10

| Fidonet: Patrick Rosenheim 1:330/204
| Internet: Patrick.Rosenheim@pandabbs.com
| Standard disclaimer applies: The views of this user are strictly their own.
| Unsolicited COMMERCIAL email sent through this gateway subject to \$500 fee.
| SATINS, Superior Accessibility Through Intelligently Networked Systems

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

96-262

From: Lee Young <lyoung@dfw.net>
To: A7.A7(SNESS)
Date: 5/5/97 8:14pm

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Dear Commissioner's:

I ask if you would please not vote on May 8, 1997 in favor of the Universal Service proposal.

I as a working American, husband and father of two school age children, do not care for my residential telephone service bill to increase.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

- Lee

Internet: lyoung@dfw.net
FidoNet: 1:124/6104
Amateur Radio: K5LY

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC: A7.A7(RCHONG)

96-262

From: Tush Nikollaj <tush@Logical.Net>
To: A7.A7(RHUNDT,JQUELLO,SNES,RCHONG)
Date: 5/5/97 6:27pm
Subject: FCC To Vote On "Modem Tax"

SUNSHINE PERIOD

To whom am y it concern:

On May 8, 1997, your Commission (FCC) will vote on a proposal regarding "universal service." I am totally opposed to this proposed plan for three reasons:

- 1) The FCC will implement a sweeping new tax before studying the alternatives (e.g., Net Day, access through existing state Internet networks).
- 2) The tax is structured to specifically punish us as Internet and online services and our subscribers. If this tax is necessary, it should be applied to all consumers and all businesses.
- 3) There has been insufficient study of this subject. There is little or no data to support the need for such a tax, and it does not indicate whether the current proposal will be enough to do the job.

Best Regards

Tush P. Nikollaj

Logical Net Corporation
1593 Central Avenue
Albany, NY 12205
tel: 518-452-9090
fax: 518-869-6554

CC: Tush Nikollaj <tush@logical.net>

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MAY 6 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

96-262

From: Chad Sasso <cesasso@hopper.unh.edu>
To: Commisioners <jquello@fcc.gov>
Date: 5/5/97 6:01pm
Subject: Opposition of modem line tax

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Dear sir/madam:

I recently read about the ruling of a new proposed fee for Internet/Online service modem users on the Cnet Website. As a student, I need to use the Internet on a constant basis in order to do research for my work. I would like to express my oposition to this new fee-based telephone line, as local calls from my telephone company are, and have always been, free. AT&T as well as the "baby bell" telephone companies certainly have enough money to survive during this time of digital revolution, and it would just be an added incentive to not go online. If you do decide to vote yes to the new fee, I beleive that you should do so after extensive research on the affects of this tax on the general public.

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Sincerely yours,

Chad Sasso
Student, University of New Hampshire

46-262



SUNSHINE PERIOD
Working For Your Health



MEMO

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

DATE: May 5, 1997
TO: Commissioner Jim Quello
Commissioner Rachelle Chong
Commissioner Susan Ness
FROM: Larry H. Wall, President
Colorado Hospital Association
RE: Telecommunications Regulations Affecting Telemedicine

ANNUAL MEETING
September 10-12, 1997 • Vail, Colorado

Given the need for expediency, I have attached a position of the American Hospital Association regarding your vote on "universal service." We support the AHA position on this issue. As a state with many small rural hospitals and other providers and as a state with experience in rural Telemedicine, I can tell you it will never grow to its potential with special consideration to service charges. The areas that need it the most would be those having to pay the greatest cost unless special consideration is given to them. Telemedicine is clearly the future for many small communities throughout this country. Making it accessible at reasonable cost is essential. Your support for rural America would be greatly appreciated.

96-262

SUNSHINE PERIOD



MISSOURI HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Mailing address: P.O. BOX 60 JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102-0060

Street address: 4712 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65109-4541

FAX: (573) 893-2809 Phone: (573) 893-3700

memo

May 5, 1997

Post-it* Fax Note	7671	Date	5/5/97	# of Pages	
To	Janice Wise	From	Nick Nichols		
Co./Dept.	Commissioner Susan Ness	Co./M.C.	Long, Jason		
Phone #	202/418-2100	Phone #	573/893-3700, 1318		
Fax #	202/418-2821	Fax #	573/893-2809		

TO: Janice Wise
Office of Commissioner Susan Ness

FROM: Palmer R. "Nick" Nichols, II
Director, Career Development

SUBJECT: FCC Vote on Telecommunications Policy

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

In rural areas, future access to affordable health care may depend on a community's ability to offer telemedicine services.

On Wednesday, May 7, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will vote on a "universal service" policy, which is part of the implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The Missouri Hospital Association (MHA) urges Commissioner Ness to support directing telecommunications rate subsidies to rural health care providers.

In Missouri, we have rural hospitals paying as high as \$60,000 per year for a dedicated telephone line that transmits teleradiography imaging to a metropolitan hospital less than 100 miles away. That is a standard charge with or without transmissions. Additionally, most rural Missouri hospitals have not pursued implementing telemedicine or teleradiography in their service area because of the cost associated with it.

The Internet is a valuable tool for the provision of many health care services, particularly in the area of public health. MHA has a web site that provides important health care updates and resources for Missouri, and currently, a little over half of its hospital and health system members have access to the Internet. MHA estimates that the percent is even lower for businesses and individuals located in rural areas of Missouri because of their need to pay toll charges to reach Internet Service Providers.

By supporting universal service, Commissioner Ness will close the gap between the levels of health care services available in metropolitan areas and those in rural areas, increase access to health care in rural areas, greatly improve the quality of health care services and lessen the costs of providing health care in rural areas.

Thank you for your consideration and support for directing telecommunications rate subsidies to rural health care providers.

PRN/bsm

Boston University

Office of Telecommunications
25 Buick Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02215
Tel: 617/353-2097
Fax: 617/353-2053



A Unit of Information Technology

May 2, 1997

Commissioner Susan Ness
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

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MAY 6 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS
MAY 2 4 55 PM '97

Regarding Ex Parte Communications in CC Docket No. 96-262

Dear Commissioner Ness,

I have become aware of an FCC Universal Service Fund/Access Charge proposal which amongst other things funds the initiative to wire America's schools and libraries to the internet via new "surcharges" on America's telecommunication systems. It is an alarming proposal and would have severe impact on American business! I have calculated the budget impact for Boston University next fiscal year to be approximately \$1,200,000 if this proposal is passed. This amongst other things will curtail our efforts to wire our own dorms.

Apparently, this proposal creates new interstate charges (FERC) of \$4.50 per line per month and raises the subscriber line charge (SLC) from a cap of \$6.00 to \$9.50. While I understand carriers would provide some flow because of lower pre minute access charges, this would have a positive impact of only \$50,000 a year or .004% of the total increase. This is hardly an off-set to balance the scale. Last year we were promised lower rates. What happened along the way, and how does it make sense to generate about a \$3 billion dollar fund solely from business; a virtual tax on our communications lines, which are not cost-based to begin with? What about the excessive "subsidies" still going to LEC accounts which translate into higher profits for them? Why is it that this proposal, which will obviously have serious negative impact on American business, so suddenly surfaced? This letter seeks your support to vote against this proposal and re-think the entire issue and come up with something that makes sense.

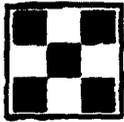
To make matters worse, the proposal taxes Centrex lines more than PBX lines. Rather than using a PBX-equivalent formula, the proposal would apply the charges to each one of our administrative lines. The effect of this discriminatory method is that Boston University would be paying 85% more than a university across the river from us who has the same switch but it sits on their premises. They would pay 15% (on the trunks only). It doesn't make sense. It would kill Centrex as a viable option. Also, if the proposal were to treat student lines as business lines, the effect to BU would cost us an additional 10% of \$1,200,000. From any perspective I look at it, it just becomes more and more awful.

Please reconsider this proposal. While I admire the Commissions ambitiousness and commitment to the Internet project, this manner of funding would saddle small and large businesses with the entire burden. The economic effects of this would be disastrous. Instead of expanding America's telecommunication systems, if this proposal were to pass, the system would contract as company after company began to remove lines. Please do not vote in support of this proposal.

In closing, please feel free to call me at 617-353-7432 if I can provide any additional information to help clarify the budgetary issues and the negative effects of this proposal at Boston University.

Sincerely yours,

James A. Shea - Director



**Ralston Purina
Company**

RECEIVED

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

MAY 2 4 55 PM '97

SUNSHINE PERIOD

May 2, 1995

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

RECEIVED
MAY 6 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: *ExParte* Communications in CC Docket No. 96-262

Dear Commissioner Ness:

I am writing to express Ralston Purina Company's opposition to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proposal to substantially raise the telephone bills on multi-line telephone users – primarily businesses – when reforming it rules on May 6th regarding universal service and interstate access charges in light of the new telecommunications law passed by Congress last year.

This proposal would increase the multi-line business subscriber line charge cap from \$6 to \$9.50 per line per month, create a new charge for each pre-subscribed telephone line of \$4.50 per line per month, and increase the cost of dedicated access by \$400 million. These increases combined, would result in approximately a \$250,000 per year increase in telecommunications costs for Ralston Purina. Only a small portion of these increases would be offset by lower long distance savings.

When the new telecommunications act became law 14 months ago, we applauded the bold predictions regarding local telephone competition and lower rates. While it will take a number of years before meaningful levels of competition become available, it now appears that the FCC leadership is proposing to raise, not lower, the telecommunications costs of American business. We do not question the goal of wiring schools and libraries. Rather, we question the manner in which the charge is to be levied and the fact that it is being levied on business customers who are already being overcharged for their telephone services.

At a time when American business is trying to compete at home and abroad, it makes no sense for the FCC single out those same businesses with higher telecommunications costs. When considering proposals to reform universal service and interstate access charge rules, we urge you to reject any direct or indirect end user line charges that unfairly target American multi-line business customers.

Sincerely,

George J. Miller
Senior Manager
Telecommunications Services

MAY 2 1997 0:20 PM
MAY

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

96-252

MAY 2 4 55 PM '97

SUNSHINE PERIOD

The May Department Stores Company
Office of Legal Counsel

Frank J. Williams, Jr.
Vice President
Public Affairs

VIA AIRBORNE EXPRESS AND FACSIMILE

May 2, 1997

RECEIVED
MAY 6 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

Dear Commissioner Ness:

My name is Frank J. Williams, Jr., and I am the Vice President of Public Affairs and Senior Counsel of The May Department Stores Company ("May"), a retail department store company with 366 stores in 30 states and the District of Columbia and over 111,000 employees. I am writing to express May's concern about the Federal Communications Commission's proposed action to establish a "Fair and Equitable Rate Charge" of \$4.50 per line per month for the first year and \$6.00 per line per month for the second year on business users of multi-line telephones. The impact of this proposed charge on companies such as May would be substantial, particularly when combined with the proposed increase in the subscriber line charge. For smaller retailers, the increase would be even more dramatic.

While May understands that the purpose of the increase in rates is to fund the wiring of schools and libraries for Internet access, we do not understand the rationale of placing such a substantial burden for such programs on businesses. The impact from the new charges on larger and smaller retailers would be in the tens of millions of dollars per year. Such increases in costs by retailers could ultimately mean increased costs to consumers, which would not create any long term benefit to the general public.

We ask that you consider the serious impact the new rates will have, not only on the business community, but on the public as a whole and that you encourage the Federal Communications Commission not to take an action which would have such a substantially negative impact on business and private citizens. If you have any questions concerning May's position on this issue, or if I can provide any additional information, please call me at (314) 342-6461.

Sincerely

Frank J. Williams, Jr.
Frank J. Williams, Jr.

MAY

96-262

SUNSHINE PERIOD

MAY 5 2 10 PM '97

OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

RECEIVED

The May Department Stores Company
Office of Legal Counsel

Frank J. Williams, Jr.
Vice President
Public Affairs

VIA AIRBORNE EXPRESS AND FACSIMILE

May 2, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

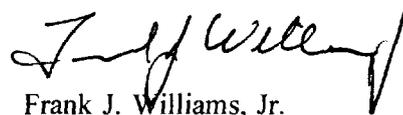
Dear Commissioner Ness:

My name is Frank J. Williams, Jr., and I am the Vice President of Public Affairs and Senior Counsel of The May Department Stores Company ("May"), a retail department store company with 366 stores in 30 states and the District of Columbia and over 111,000 employees. I am writing to express May's concern about the Federal Communications Commission's proposed action to establish a "Fair and Equitable Rate Charge" of \$4.50 per line per month for the first year and \$6.00 per line per month for the second year on business users of multi-line telephones. The impact of this proposed charge on companies such as May would be substantial, particularly when combined with the proposed increase in the subscriber line charge. For smaller retailers, the increase would be even more dramatic.

While May understands that the purpose of the increase in rates is to fund the wiring of schools and libraries for Internet access, we do not understand the rationale of placing such a substantial burden for such programs on businesses. The impact from the new charges on larger and smaller retailers would be in the tens of millions of dollars per year. Such increases in costs by retailers could ultimately mean increased costs to consumers, which would not create any long term benefit to the general public.

We ask that you consider the serious impact the new rates will have, not only on the business community, but on the public as a whole and that you encourage the Federal Communications Commission not to take an action which would have such a substantially negative impact on business and private citizens. If you have any questions concerning May's position on this issue, or if I can provide any additional information, please call me at (314) 342-6461.

Sincerely



Frank J. Williams, Jr.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

May 2 3 53 PM '97



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96-262

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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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 Suite 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Ness:

The American Hospital Association, on behalf of its 5,000 member hospitals and health systems urges you to fully implement the intent of health care access provisions of the federal Universal Support mechanism required by the Snowe-Rockefeller amendments of the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996.

Eliminate Distance Charges

The law was written to ensure "rates comparable" for rural health care networks to those available to their urban counterparts. In our opinion, allowing continuation of distance-sensitive rates would violate the intent of the statute, making equal access to health care services via telecommunications virtually impossible in many rural areas. Please eliminate or offset the effect of distance-based charges so that valuable telehealth projects may be implemented equally for all Americans.

Internet Access

Increasingly, teaching and training, community health education, public health and other clinical health services are becoming available via multimedia desktop applications over the internet. At the same time, rural health care providers must pay significantly more for long distance and related charges to gain internet access. As you consider the range of modalities and technologies available to health care networks under the Universal Services provision, we urge that you allow rural providers to gain internet access at urban dial-up rates.

Washington, DC Center for Public Affairs
Chicago, Illinois Center for Health Care Leadership

Liberty Place, Suite 700
325 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004-2802
(202) 638-1100

Qualifying Institutions

Within telehealth networks, many of the reference or consulting institutions are actually located in urban areas-- though they are providing service to their rural counterparts. We urge that the final order consider the various hub and spoke and or multi-point networks which are emerging, recognizing that many of these largely rural networks include one or more academic health centers or other urban-based facilities. A link between a rural and urban facility should be deemed service to a rural area eligible for rate relief in the commission's final order.

On behalf of the nation's hospitals and health care systems, I want to thank you in advance for your hard work in implementing these worthwhile provisions, and offer our ongoing support on these and related matters. Let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



James Bentley
Senior Vice President for Policy

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Karen L. Miller, *President*
Gerald Holcomb, *Vice-President*
Ann Dillon, *Secretary*
Roger Goolsby, *Treasurer*
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William Seikaly, *Trustee*
Larry D. Wright, Sr., *Trustee*

Student Representatives
Marshall Lyons, *Southfield-Lathrup HS*
Jason Taylor, *Southfield HS*



96-262

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Mariene E. Davis
Superintendent of Schools
Associate Superintendents
Phyllis A. Burton
James G. Fell

SUNSHINE PERIOD

John W. English *Administrative Center*
24661 Lahser Road
Southfield, Michigan 48034
PHONE: (810) 746-8500
FAX: (810) 746-8540

SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MAY 6 1997

Wednesday 30 April 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Susan Ness, *Commissioner*
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 832
Washington DC 20554
Fax: 202-418-2821

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Thank you for your commitment to support an educational rate which will provide every school and library in the country with discounted services for telecommunications.

The proposed e-rate plan will begin to address some of the needs of our students in our nation's schools. This joint effort between the government and businesses will provide the schools with the electronic communications that will allow us to prepare our students for the workforce of tomorrow.

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

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

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely

Marlene E. Davis, Ph.D.
Superintendent

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SUSAN NESS
MAY 1 5 48 PM '97

96-262

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

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 24, 1997

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

Dear Ms. Ness:

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. Doggett
Deborah M. High
George E. Keon
Bruce Pen

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OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
SUSAN NESS

96-262

From: Tim Wilson <TimW@edview.com>
To: "rhundt@fcc.gov" <rhundt@fcc.gov>
Date: 5/6/97 10:01am
Subject: e rate

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Please adopt the board's recommendation and create the fund. I get frustrated on the local level when my school district will set up committees and then go against the recommendation of the committee. Why get a committee in the first place if you aren't going to follow their advice. They were put together for a purpose. Please show that though frustrations may arise local that nationally there is vision and the ability to execute the vision.

Thanks

Tim Wilson
Father of 1 high school freshman, 1 6th grader, 1 2nd grader, 1 kindergartener, 1 2 year old
They are our future and education is their's

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MAY 6 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC: "rchong@fcc.gov" <rchong@fcc.gov>

95-262

From: <catspaw@hb.org>
To: A7.A7(SNESS)
Date: 5/6/97 11:46am
Subject: NO MODEM TAX!!!

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Chairman Hunt,

As an online service subscriber with a tight budget, I must object to the so-called "modem tax." Let's look for a FAIR solution.

Thank you for your time.

Martha E. Ruderman
catspaw@hb.org

cc: int:jquello@fcc.gov
int:sness@fcc.gov
int:rchong@fcc.gov

This message sent via:

HeartBeat BBS Where The Wild at Heart Play
716-756-4444 or 716-756-4466 IP: 206.114.182.2 or hb.org

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

96-262

SUNSHINE PERIOD

From: <shadoe@wmol.com>
To: A7.A7(SNESS)
Date: 5/6/97 12:27pm
Subject: "Modem tax"

As a bss user and infrequent internet user, I am appalled by the program you are trying to implement. The program is basically a modem tax. I will stop using any and all on-line services if this goes into effect. The best way for the government to help "provide affordable rates" for all is to subsidise some boards. How in the world do you expect on-line services to afford this without either losing their services or penalizing other users with higher fees. If the government feels on-line services fees are too high, they might want to subsidise users that qualify. One more question, how many "low-income" families do you hear of that have a computer? Not many, I suspect. I suspect they could care less about getting on-line in their homes. I suspect if they need to get on-line for something, they go to the library. This "modem tax" for providers and users is simply assinine and I wont have anything to do with it. I certainly hope you wont either.

Carrie Quist

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Federal Communications Commis
Office of Secretary