

WAYNE-FINGER LAKES Board of Cooperative Educational Services

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Joseph J. Marinelli, Ph.D. District Superintendent

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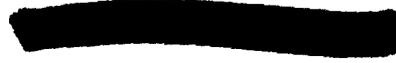
August 14, 1997

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman FCC 1919 M St NW, Room 814 Washington, DC 20554



Dear Chairman Hundt:

I would like to endorse the nomination of Dr. Brian Talbott to the USAC Board. I cannot think of a better person to represent schools and libraries in managing the logistics and implementation of the e-rate. I have known Brian for several years and believe that his skills and talents well qualify him for a national board. My respect for him is clearly shared by my colleagues in New York State.

Among the hundreds of educational service agencies in this country, Brian Talbott is the recognized leader in the area of telecommunications. He chairs the Telecommunications Task Force of the American Association of Educational Service Agencies to monitor the e-rate on behalf of public schools and service agencies. He is chairman of the Washington School Information Processing Cooperative. In that regard, Brian is the lead person in that state in implementing its innovative K-20 Technology Plan to link all 296 K-12 school districts, all institutions of higher education, libraries, all 32 community colleges and all nine educational service districts electronically along the information highway. In addition, he has served as its chief spokesperson statewide. He has developed the largest K-12 telecommunications network in the country now serving over 200,000 students and adult learners at over 1,000 sites located across 36 states, known as the STEP/STARS Satellite Broadcasting program.

Brian is one of our most active service agencies' chief executives in the legislative arena and has spent a considerable amount of time in Washington monitoring and impacting legislation regarding the Telecommunications Act. He has testified before Congress and the state legislature and assisted lawmakers in formulating and amending bills. He has assisted federal agencies in drafting and implementing rules and regulations. His activities in this regard have given him excellent negotiation skills.

I have found Brian to have exceptional communication skills as well. While he is an excellent listener and consensus builder, he knows when a tough decision has to be made and is not afraid to take action.

Brian's exceptional leadership has also earned him the respect of his colleagues in that recently he was the clear and unanimous choice for the position of Executive Director of the American Association of Educational Service Agencies.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, [Signature] Joseph J. Marinelli AAESA Executive Council Eastern Region of the United States