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June 5, 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable William E. Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Proposed Revision of Maximum Collection Amounts for  
Schools and Libraries and Rural Health Care Providers, Public  
Notice, CC Docket No. 96-45 DA 98-972**

Dear Chairman Kennard:

On behalf of the National Urban League, I support the Commission's efforts to facilitate high-speed Internet access for schools and libraries with the Schools and Libraries Fund. The Commission's work to provide telecommunications, Internet access, and internal connections for the poorest schools is particularly important. Without the comprehensive support of the Schools and Libraries Fund, many children in poor communities will be left behind as the nation readies itself for the next millennium.

As part of our mission to help the urban poor to mainstream, the National Urban League works with leading corporations, government and academia to bring the benefits of information and communications technologies to underserved communities. Our first technology programs opened in 1968. Strong leadership from government and industry has been a key element in the success of our technology programs over the past 30 years. Despite these investments and the important contributions of "Net-Day" corporations and volunteers, only 13% of the classrooms in poor and minority schools have Internet access. The E-rate program is a critically important mechanism for helping these schools and libraries to afford their students access to the technology they will need to become productive citizens and workers in the next century.

While the needs are clear, we are hopeful that Congress and the Commission can work through the complex issues of financing the Schools and Library Fund on schedule as well as the other programs related to Universal Service. It is important that the appropriate balance be struck so that the needs of schools and the interests of consumers can be met.

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**Honorable William E. Kennard**  
**June 5, 1998**  
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Accordingly, the National Urban League strongly supports the Commission's efforts to provide telecommunications services, Internet access, and internal connections for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hugh B. Price". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Hugh B. Price  
President

Cc: The Honorable Susan Ness  
The Honorable Harold W. Furchtgott-Roth  
The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
The Honorable Gloria Tristani

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