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December 1, 2014

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The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Barbara G. Nemko, Ph.D.  
Superintendent  
(707) 253-6810

Dear Commissioner Pai:

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SELPA  
(707) 253-6807

On behalf of the Napa County Office of Education, an intermediate educational agency between our five local school districts in Napa County and the California Department of Education, I am writing to express our unqualified support for the increase to the E-Rate cap proposed by Chairman Wheeler.

We have been working diligently with our teachers to assist them to transition to digital resources, which are more engaging, interactive, and up-to-date than any textbook could ever be. This has caused a growing demand for increased bandwidth, which cannot be met without the cap increase.

The E-Rate cap has only increased marginally in the last 17 years, yet today, almost every family owns at least one smart device. Schools have been behind the curve in making the transition to digital, largely because the E-Rate cap has been practically stagnant during the period.

The proposed increase would directly address this critical problem. Without this assistance, many schools will be unable to provide the access to technology that has become crucial to preparing students for success in life and work.

According to data collected by California's K-12 High Speed Network, more than 2,000 California schools do not have adequate access to basic broadband (i.e. 10Mbps) services. Last year, California's transition to the next generation online assessments highlighted

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significant gaps in connectivity across the state. The proposed cap increase would provide the increased resources and fiscal stability schools need to pursue serious and scalable investments in technology infrastructure.

The five district superintendents in Napa County and I urge you to support the proposed E-Rate cap increase when it comes before the Commission on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Please contact us if we can provide additional information on how this will impact our students in Napa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Nemko".

Barbara Nemko, Ph.D.  
Napa County Superintendent of Schools