



# STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR  
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
RYAN M. WISE, DIRECTOR

October 29, 2015

The Honorable Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company  
Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

The Iowa Department of Education is pleased to support the re-nomination of Julie Tritt Schell to serve as the schools representative on the USAC board beginning January 1, 2016. Ms. Tritt Schell currently serves as the Chair of the Schools and Libraries Committee, a position to which she was elected by her fellow committee members. Her leadership on the USAC board has been a direct benefit to the school districts and nonpublic schools all across the country.

Ms. Tritt Schell and our state's E-rate coordinator, Pamela Jacobs, have served as colleagues in the E-rate program for 17 years. Dr. Jacobs has found Ms. Tritt Schell to be an extremely knowledgeable advocate for districts and schools as they seek to effectively use E-Rate funds. She has firsthand knowledge of the experiences that schools face as they complete various E-rate forms and meet program requirements. In our view, this on-the-ground experience gives her a valuable and unique perspective as a USAC board member.

Because of her extensive experience with the E-rate program and the application process, Ms. Tritt Schell has been instrumental in encouraging USAC to engage in more stakeholder outreach which we have found to be extremely beneficial. She encouraged USAC to engage in user testing for the new form 471, a process in which our state's E-rate coordinator participated. In addition, Ms. Tritt Schell has demonstrated the ability to strengthen the relationship between the applicant community and the USAC staff.

Grimes State Office Building - 400 E 14th St - Des Moines IA 50319-0146

PHONE (515) 281-5294 FAX (515) 242-5988

[www.educateiowa.gov](http://www.educateiowa.gov)

*Championing Excellence for all Iowa Students through Leadership and Service*

Honorable Wheeler  
Page 2  
October 29, 2015

The E-rate program is at an important point in its history as full implementation of E-rate modernization becomes a reality. We believe that the continuation of a proven USAC board member will help ensure continued success of the program.

We encourage you to re-appoint Julie Tritt Schell to the USAC board and appreciate your consideration of our recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Berger".

Jeff Berger, Ph.D.  
Deputy Director  
Iowa Department of Education