

Pangburn Public Schools

*Dr. Kathy Bonyhill, Superintendent
1100 Short Street, Pangburn, AR 72121*

Telephone: 501-728-4511

Fax: 501-728-4514

August 11, 2015

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Pangburn School District in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Pangburn Skills represents a district with nearly 800 students, and our rural school is located in north central Arkansas near Greers Ferry Lake and the Little Red River. We have long bus routes in four directions which travel in and out of mountains and hills and are located in a small community that is less than the population of the school district. Our school district is the largest employer in the city. My district serves students in which more than 50% are from low-income families and students ride thirty minutes or more each way on the school bus each morning and afternoon. Like many of the smaller Arkansas school districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. **The Pangburn School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program** because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez helped to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. I had the opportunity to train with Dr. Hernandez in a Superintendent Leadership group during the 2012-13 school year and I was always impressed with his insights and understanding of the educational system. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural American, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding: it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Pangburn School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathy Berryhill

Dr. Kathy Berryhill, Superintendent
Pangburn Schools
Office: 501-728-4511
Cell: 501-322-2239

*--District Board of Education--
President – Trey Reaper, Vice President – Mikel McCord, Secretary – Royce Turner, Members: Mark Flint & Nikki King
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CENTERPOINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

755 Hwy 8 East
Amity, Arkansas 71921
Phone: 870-356-2912 Fax: 870-356-4637
www.goknights.us

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors,

CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Centerpoint School District in Amity, Arkansas I write to offer my strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

Centerpoint represents a district with nearly 1,000 students, in a rural, south-central/south-west part of the state. My district serves 60% free and reduced lunch students, and over 15% minority students. In our district, like many other in Arkansas, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way we can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Centerpoint School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez help to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. As a colleague in the same educational co-operative, I have come to know Mike as a dedicated, forward thinking, innovative, educational leader. Furthermore, he have a vision of public schools as the greatest opportunity for all children to become successful, productive members of society. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well

Dan Breshears, Superintendent
Trudy Hughes, Elementary Curriculum & Support Services
Tonya Harrison, Secondary Curriculum & Support Services
Michelle Bright, Director of Special Education and Federal Programs

Rodney Whitfield, Primary School Principal
Penry Smothers, Intermediate School Principal
Davey Jones, Middle School Principal
Nic Mounts, High School Principal



CENTERPOINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Amity, Arkansas 71921
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as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide. The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural American, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding: it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board. I, on the behalf of the Centerpoint School District, I respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Breshears".

Dan Breshears
Superintendent

Dan Breshears, Superintendent
Trudy Hughes, Elementary Curriculum & Support Services
Tonya Harrison, Secondary Curriculum & Support Services
Michelle Bright, Director of Special Education and Federal Programs

Rodney Whitfield, Primary School Principal
Penny Smothers, Intermediate School Principal
Davey Jones, Middle School Principal
Nic Mounts, High School Principal

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Carl Easley, Superintendent

P.O. Box 69

Wynne, Arkansas 72396

Phone: (870) 238-5020 • Fax: (870) 238-5011

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Wynne School District in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Wynne School District represents a district with nearly 2800 students, in Northeast Arkansas. Our district has 62% of its students on free or reduced lunches. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Wynne School district wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez help to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to

mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

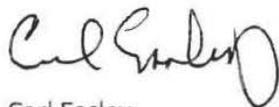
Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. I attended leadership academy with Dr. Hernandez and found him to be a person who has high expectations for himself and those he works with. He always places the needs of students first. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural American, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding: it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Wynne School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl Easley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Carl Easley
Superintendent

MAYFLOWER SCHOOL DISTRICT

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John Gray
Superintendent
jgray@mayflowerschools.org

OFFICE

#7 Ashmore Drive
Mayflower, AR 72106

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Fax (501) 470-1343

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Mayflower School District in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Mayflower School District represents a district with nearly 1,100 students, and is a rural area between two urban areas. My district serves 63% of our students with free or reduced lunches. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Mayflower School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez helped to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize

district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural America, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding: it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Mayflower School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
John Gray


Superintendent

MCGEHEE SCHOOL DISTRICT

THOMAS GATHEN
SUPERINTENDENT

LINDA TULLOS
FED. PRGCS./CURR. COORD.

P. O. Box 767
McGehee, AR 71654
Phone (870) 222-3670
FAX (870) 222-OWLS

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JEFF OWYOUNG

August 11, 2015

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

Chairman Wheeler:

On behalf of the McGehee School District in McGehee, Arkansas I write to express sincere support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrator Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The McGehee School District is comprised of over 1300 students, k-12, located in rural setting in Desha County in Southeast Arkansas. The district covers over 500 square miles. My district is 50% Caucasian, 49% African American and 1% Hispanic. The district has a 76% free and reduced student population. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate internet connections. The McGehee School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez helped to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas' E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate

that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. As rural electricity was in the past century, expanding connectivity to far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on behalf of the McGehee School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC Board of Directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Thomas Gathen, Superintendent
McGehee School District

CLARENDON-HOLLY GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Lee R. Vent, Superintendent

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Jack Jones, V Pres.
Debbie Cruthis, Sec.

SaShunna Tyler
Christy Bowen
James Boston
LaRon Johnson

Superintendent's Office
PO Box 248
Clarendon, Arkansas 72029

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Monica Gray, Fed. Prog.
Dusty Meek & Cathy Tanner, CHS Principal
Bobbie Loewer, CES Principal

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the in Clarendon School District in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Clarendon School District represents a district with nearly 540 students, located in the Delta in Monroe County. My district is made up of 92 percent low-income families. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Clarendon School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez help to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. I have observed Dr. Hernandez's, on a personal level, working with our State Legislators on behalf of educational issues. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation

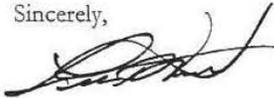
of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural America, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding; it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Clarendon School District respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee Vent", written in a cursive style.

Lee Vent, Superintendent



Harrisburg School District

Danny B. Sample, Superintendent
207 W. Estes St, Harrisburg, AR 72432
(870) 578-2416

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Jeb Bess

August 11, 2015

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Harrisburg School District in Arkansas, I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Harrisburg School District represents a district with nearly 1,300 students, in the Delta area of rural Arkansas, mostly dedicated to grain farming and manufacturing. My district serves + or -, 400 square miles with a median income of approximately \$23,000 per household. Harrisburg school District is a Provision 2 District with a 100% total, free student meal program, and a rate of 74%. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Harrisburg School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

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the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan, the Ozarks, or the Delta, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural America, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding: it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Harrisburg School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,

Danny B. Sample, Superintendent



Cossatot River School District

130 School Drive
Wickes, AR 71973

*Donnie Davis,
Superintendent
Phone (870) 385-7101
Fax (870) 385-2238*

August 11, 2015

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administration Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45 Dear Chairman Wheeler, On behalf of the Cossatot River School District in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Cossatot River School District represents a district with nearly 1100 students, located in rural western Arkansas, with mountainous terrain, rivers, valleys, lakes, and hard rock sub terrain. My district serves a relatively poor populous in that about 75% of our students are F&R meals, along with a high number of Hispanic families who work primarily in the poultry industry. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Cossatot River School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez help to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and

Umpire Campus
High School (870) 583-2141
Elementary (870) 583-2141

Cossatot River High School
(870) 387-4200

Elementary Campuses
Vandervoort (870) 387-6923
Wickes (870) 385-2346



Cossatot River School District

130 School Drive
Wickes, AR 71973

*Donnie Davis,
Superintendent
Phone (870) 385-7101
Fax (870) 385-2238*

professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural American, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding: it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Cossatot River School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Donnie Davis, Superintendent
Cossatot River School District

Umpire Campus
High School (870) 583-2141
Elementary (870) 583-2141

Cossatot River High School
(870) 387-4200

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De Queen - Mena Education Service Cooperative

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the De Queen - Mena Education Service Cooperative in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The De Queen - Mena Education Service Cooperative) represents an area with nearly 13,000 students in a mostly rural area of Arkansas. My cooperative serves an area of diverse population with a high percentage of low income families. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The De Queen - Mena Education Service Cooperative wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez help to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. While Assistant Commissioner Dr. Hernandez proved very knowledgeable with broadband and technology issues. He proved to be an endless source of information for our cooperative. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired

a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural America, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding; it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the De Queen - Mena Education Service Cooperative respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,

John Ponder

Director



BENTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

P.O. BOX 939

207 West Conway Street

BENTON, AR 72018

(501) 776-5717 www.bentonschools.org

Jeff Collum
Superintendent

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Benton School District in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Benton School District represents a district with nearly five thousand students, located in a suburban area that serves as a bedroom community to the Greater Little Rock Metro area. My district serves several students who live in rural areas and consist of approximately a forty-one percent free and reduced lunch population district wide. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Benton School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez help to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. Dr. Hernandez has consistently been at the forefront of making progressive changes across the state that enable school leaders and school districts to better serve all students. His education knowledge and expertise are highly valued and far stretching beyond just the local and state levels of leadership. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw

BENTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

P.O. BOX 939

207 West Conway Street

BENTON, AR 72018

(501) 776-5717 www.bentonschools.org

the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural America, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding; it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Benton School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,



Jeff S. Collum



HAAS HALL ACADEMY

STARR SCHOLAR CENTER

1880 NORTH FRONT STREET

FAYETTEVILLE, AR 72703 5130

(479) 966 4930 | (479) 966 4932 - FAX | HAASHALL.ORG

EVERY SCHOLAR, EVERY DAY - COLLEGE BOUND

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of Haas Hall Academy a nationally ranked open-enrollment public charter school located in Arkansas, I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated, and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

Haas Hall Academy represents a student population of nearly 700 scholars. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Haas Hall Academy wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere seven kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez helped to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to leverage better Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with Gigabit connectivity and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding, classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired

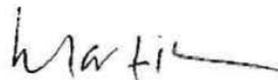
a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether, in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural American, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding; it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require epic leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of Haas Hall Academy respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,



Dr. Martin W. Schoppmeyer, Jr.
Founder and Superintendent

Fountain Lake School District

Darin Beckwith • Superintendent

August 11, 2015

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Fountain Lake School District in Arkansas, I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Fountain Lake School District represents a district with nearly 1,300 students, we currently have a 1 to 1 ratio of Chromebooks for students in grades 2-12. My district serves 186 square miles located N and E of the city of Hot Springs with a year round population of 50,000. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Fountain Lake School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez helped to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. Mike worked for me at Fountain Lake High School and it is without reservation that I recommend him. He has proven himself to be very committed, self-motivated and team oriented. He is very well respected in the education community. He is frequently seeking areas that he can contribute in a positive manner and no task seems to detour his enthusiasm. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-



Page 2

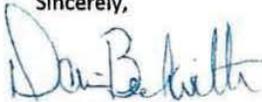
making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural American, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding: it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Fountain Lake School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darin Beckwith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Darin Beckwith
Superintendent
Fountain Lake School District

DB:cs

Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative

4 North Double Springs Road Farmington, Arkansas 72730
(479) 267-7450 FAX (479) 267-7456

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Northwest Arkansas Service Cooperative I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Northwest Arkansas Service Cooperative supports and provides educational services to sixteen public and four charter schools representing 82,000 students in the rapidly growing Northwest Arkansas economic engine. This region serves a diverse socioeconomic culture and population. There are large numbers of English Language Learners, low socioeconomic population, middle and high income works and rural population. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Northwest Arkansas Service Cooperative wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

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*Serving the public schools of Benton, Madison & Washington Counties
Bentonville, Decatur, Elkins, Farmington, Fayetteville, Gentry, Gravette, Greenland, Huntsville, Lincoln,
Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove, Rogers, Siloam Springs, Springdale, West Fork*

Making a Difference!

I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

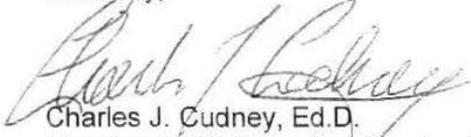
Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. Dr. Hernandez has served as a superintendent of schools and as Assistant Commissioner of Evaluation. I have worked with him in many settings and have found him to be a quick study, knowledgeable, always professional and committed to improving education for children. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

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I, on the behalf of the Northwest Arkansas Service Cooperative respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Charles J. Cudney, Ed.D.
Director, NWA Education Service Cooperative

Wilbur D. Mills Education Service Cooperative
Jeff William, Director
P.O. Box 850
Beebe, AR 72012
501-882-5467

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Wilbur D. Mills Education Service Cooperative in Arkansas, I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Wilbur D. Mills Education Service Cooperative represents and serves 16 school districts with approximately 20,000 students. Most of our school districts are rural districts and some are located in the Delta. Our districts serve student populations of 50% low income to 90% low income families. In many Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The (insert district name) wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez help to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of

dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

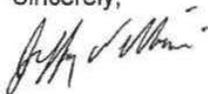
Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural America, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding; it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Wilbur D. Mills Education Service Cooperative, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeff Williams

Director, WDMESC

HECTOR SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent

11520 SR 27

Hector, Arkansas 72843

479-284-2021

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Hector School District in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Hector School District represents a district with nearly 600 students, located in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains. My district serves mostly rural students and our free and reduced lunch rate is between 70-75%. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Hector School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez helped to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. I have witnessed Mike serve at every possible level in education. He was an outstanding math teacher, high school principal, superintendent of schools, assistant and deputy commissioner of education in Arkansas, and a great person with impeccable character. Mike has accomplished all of this and is still a very young man! At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of

HECTOR SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent

11520 SR 27

Hector, Arkansas 72843

479-284-2021

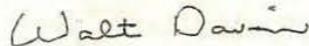
statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural America, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding; it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Hector School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,



Walt Davis, Hector School District Superintendent of Schools



MAYNARD SCHOOL DISTRICT
Patricia Rawlings, Superintendent

74 Campus Drive
Maynard, AR 72444

870-647-3525

pat.rawlings@maynard.k12.ar.us

<http://maynard.nesc.k12.ar.us>

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Maynard School District in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Maynard School District represents a district with nearly 420 students. My district serves a very rural area with 78% poverty. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Maynard School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez helped to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks,

they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural American, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding: it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Maynard School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,

Patricia Rawlings

Patricia Rawlings,
Superintendent

Ouachita Public Schools

Ronnie Kissire
Superintendent

166 School House Road
Donaldson, Arkansas 71941

Phone: 501-384-2318
Fax: 501-384-5615

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Ouachita School District in Donaldson Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Ouachita School District represents a district with nearly 500 students is a rural school district that strives to provide educational opportunities that allow our students the ability to compete nationally in today's market. My district serves being a low income area with relatively few job opportunities locally, it is important that we have access to outside resources and broadband coverage. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Ouachita School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez help to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Ouachita Warriors... "Where Excellence is Expected!"

OUACHITA SCHOOL DISTRICT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

Ouachita Public Schools

Ronnie Kissire
Superintendent

166 School House Road
Donaldson, Arkansas 71941

Phone: 501-384-2318
Fax: 501-384-5615

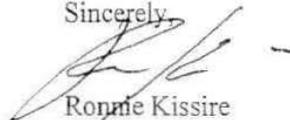
Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. I have known Mike for a number of years through his work with students and as he worked on his own educational goals. As a student and leader he has demonstrated his willingness to be objective and thoughtful in his decisions as a member our states leadership. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural American, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding; it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Ouachita School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely,



Ronnie Kissire

Superintendent Ouachita School District

Ouachita Warriors... "Where Excellence is Expected!"

OUACHITA SCHOOL DISTRICT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



DAVID RUTLEDGE
Superintendent

Riverview School District

800 Raider Drive
SEARCY, ARKANSAS 72143
(501) 279-0540 • Fax: (501) 279-0737

JUDY BALLARD
Asst. Superintendent

August 13, 2015

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

On behalf of the Riverview School District in Arkansas I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I was extremely pleased to learn that an administrator of Dr. Hernandez's caliber has been nominated and I welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

The Riverview School District represents a district with nearly 1401 students, from an agricultural rural area. My district serves approximately 1,025 economically disadvantaged students. In many of Arkansas districts, broadband expansion is challenged by low population density and difficult terrain, making it cost prohibitive to provide adequate connectivity to thousands of students. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability, both at school and at home. In this environment, the E-rate program is often the only way our superintendents can provide their students with adequate Internet connections. The Riverview School District wholeheartedly supports the E-rate program because it is the cornerstone of our efforts to provide students with an education that will allow them to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and I am confident that he will bring the same skill and diligence to bear as a USAC board member.

When Dr. Hernandez became the Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education in 2014, the quality of school connectivity in Arkansas had reached a crisis point. The state was spending nearly \$280 per megabit, nearly 20 times the national average. Rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections, sometimes providing a mere 7 kbps per student. Dr. Hernandez helped to spearhead a statewide effort to mobilize superintendents and local communities to better leverage Arkansas's E-rate funding. Under his leadership, a public-private partnership was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with a state-of-the-art fiber optic connection. This first in the nation solution is projected to save millions of dollars, provide

every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity, and has bipartisan backing in the Arkansas legislature. Building upon this plan, Arkansas is now one of a few states to mandate that every school district offer coding classes. I am confident that our state would never have reached this extraordinary milestone without Dr. Hernandez's leadership and knowledge.

Dr. Hernandez's qualifications for the USAC board extend beyond his recent achievements. Dr. Hernandez has been a very valued leader for many years throughout the state and at various levels of leadership. His experience and expertise will undoubtedly prove to be an asset as an USAC board member. At the Arkansas Department of Education, Dr. Hernandez spearheaded efforts to enable data-driven decision-making through the digitization and analysis of educational data. In particular, he oversaw the implementation of statewide, cloud-based software designed to standardize district-level administrative procedures, as well as shepherding the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a visceral understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity and how a lack of access exacerbates the digital divide.

The Internet offers hope that no matter where a person lives, whether in Manhattan or the Ozarks, they have the opportunity to connect with others and engage in the greater American civic community. But today, for millions who live in rural America, basic connectivity is barely accessible. As rural electrification was in the past century, expanding connectivity to the far-flung corners of our nation is one of the challenges of our age. Meeting this challenge requires far more than funding: it is a question of determination and creativity. Monumental tasks of this sort require monumental leadership, and Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated the vision and skill necessary to achieve such a mission. I am confident that he will be an exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board.

I, on the behalf of the Riverview School District, respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of schools eligible to receive E-rate.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Rutledge". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

David Rutledge