

November 11, 2015

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

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

The Board and members of the E-Rate Management Professionals Association (E-mpa[®]) wholeheartedly endorse the re-nomination of Julie Tritt-Schell as a school representative to the USAC Board of Directors.

This is a challenging period for the E-rate program as both USAC and the FCC move to implement the changes wrought by the E-rate 2.0 modernization orders. This is occurring at the same time that USAC is developing and introducing its E-rate Productivity Center ("EPC"), an entirely new way for applicants to interact with USAC. E-mpa[®] believes that it is critical that the schools be represented on the USAC Board by someone with Ms. Schell's day-to-day expertise in the E-rate process and who, as Chair of the Schools and Libraries Committee, can continue to provide feedback and guidance to USAC on the applicant experience.

Ms. Schell's re-nomination filing by the State E-Rate Coordinators' Alliance ("SECA") fully outlines her E-rate experience and contributions to date. To this, E-mpa[®] would add that we gratefully appreciate the openness and effectiveness with which Ms. Tritt-Schell has dealt with our organization throughout her term on the USAC Board.

E-mpa[®] strongly encourages you to re-appoint Julie Tritt-Schell to the USAC Board for another three-year term.

Sincerely,



Mel Van Patten, CEMP
President
E-rate Management Professionals Association