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Pittsburgh Public Schools : Office of Information and Technology

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November 16, 2015

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

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

This letter is submitted in support of Julie Tritt Schell to continue her service as a school representative on the USAC Board. Ms. Tritt Schell is one of a handful of individuals in the country who has been with the program since before its first filing window. Having acted as the Pennsylvania E-rate Coordinator for 17 years, as well as the Pennsylvania Director of Educational Technology, she understands not only the larger policy objectives related to connecting schools and students, but also the day-to-day program nuances experienced by schools in our state, but also nationwide.

More specifically, we have interacted with Ms. Tritt Schell for many years as our District has navigated the complex E-rate rules. We are continually impressed by her level of professionalism and ability to get to the root cause of a complex issue and find a common sense solution. It is these traits that the FCC should want in a USAC board member representing the school community.

As the E-rate program is in the middle of modernization, we believe it is essential for the USAC board members representing schools have a practical, working knowledge of the program and the challenges being faced by all types of applicants. Ms. Tritt Schell is regarded nationally as an E-rate expert, as well as for her thoughtful and practical manner of dealing with complex issues.

For all of these reasons, we strongly encourage you to reappoint Ms. Tritt Schell to the USAC Board representing the school community.

Scott Gutowski
Chief of Information and Technology