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:

The Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition was created in 2009 to help address the shortage of adequate broadband for anchor institutions. In regard to schools and libraries, we have a deep interest in the E-rate program and have commented on many E-rate dockets, including comments submitted as part of the recent E-rate modernization process.

We note the release on October 16, 2015, of the Commission's Public Notice regarding nominations for the Board of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). Because of the diverse nature of the SHLB membership we are not in a position to nominate any particular individual for the school representative seat on the Board. However, we certainly recognize the importance of this seat and thus we strongly encourage the Commission to select a person who has considerable knowledge and hands-on, in-depth experience with the E-rate program.

We are pleased that the Commission made several significant changes to the E-rate program to encourage the deployment of high-bandwidth technologies, including a variety of fiber and wireless services options. We believe that the USAC Board should reflect a commitment to

making sure that these changes are implemented in a manner that provides schools and libraries with future-proof, cost-effective options to increase their bandwidth and serve their communities. A person with these simple—but key—attributes will be critical to the future success of the program.

Sincerely,

John Windhausen
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