

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA
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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:

On behalf of the School District of Philadelphia, this letter is submitted in support of the reappointment of Julie Tritt Schell to the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors as a representative of schools.

The School District of Philadelphia educates the greatest number of K-12 students in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is one of its largest recipients of E-rate funding. Ms. Schell has long-served as our state's E-rate Coordinator and we have had the opportunity to work with her since the beginning of the program. She has represented both urban and rural schools in our state and understands not only the larger policy objectives related to connecting schools and students, but also the day-to-day program nuances experienced by school applicants. As co-chair of the State E-rate Coordinator's Alliance (SECA), she has represented all states before the FCC and SLD and is a devoted advocate for schools and libraries across the country.

As a major stakeholder in the program, we believe it is essential for the USAC board members representing schools to have a practical, working knowledge of the program and the challenges being faced by all types of applicants. We believe that Ms. Schell's extensive experience makes her an excellent candidate to represent schools and would continue to be a positive influence on the Board, especially as the modernization effort transforms the E-rate program.

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

Respectfully,



Robert F. Westall
Deputy Chief Information Officer
School District of Philadelphia