Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 16, 2015

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We write to express our support for the nomination of Dr. Michael Hernandez to the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors.

Arkansas has 257 school districts with nearly a half million students, stretching from the banks of the Mississippi River to the hills of the Ozark Mountains. Many of these districts struggle to provide adequate broadband connectivity to thousands of students due to the cost prohibitive nature of expansion in areas with low population density and difficult terrain. Because of these obstacles, Arkansans have suffered from some of the nation's worst broadband availability in our towns, homes, and most importantly, our schools. In this environment, the importance of the E-rate program can never be underestimated as it is often the only way superintendents can provide adequate internet connections for their students. Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated extraordinary acumen at leveraging the E-rate program for the benefit of all Arkansans, and we are 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 was in crisis. The state was spending almost 20 times the national average per megabit and rural school districts had only antiquated copper connections. In response, Dr. Hernandez lead a statewide effort 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was established to provide every school district in Arkansas with state-of-the-art fiber optic technology, upgrading outdated copper infrastructure. This innovative solution, which is unique to Arkansas, is projected to save millions of dollars and provide every Arkansas student with gigabit connectivity. In addition, Dr. Hernandez led 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 shepherded the creation of a database for curriculum and professional development materials. Through these experiences, Dr. Hernandez has acquired a unique understanding of the transformational possibilities offered by connectivity.

We believe Dr. Hernandez has repeatedly demonstrated that he is an agent of positive change and we are confident that he will be a truly exceptional representative for America's superintendents on the USAC board. For these reasons, we respectfully request your approval of Dr. Hernandez's nomination to the USAC board of directors as a representative of E-rate eligible schools.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

JOHN BOOZMAN
U.S. Senator

RICK CRAWFORD
Member of Congress

FRENCH HILL
Member of Congress

BRUCE WESTERMAN
Member of Congress

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2016

The Honorable John Boozman
United States Senate
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boozman:

Thank you for your letter in support of the appointment of Dr. Michael Hernandez to serve on the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors. Your views are very important to me.

I am pleased to inform you that Dr. Hernandez has been appointed to serve on the USAC Board. I appreciated the information you provided concerning Dr. Hernandez's qualifications, including his service as Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education and his ongoing commitment to help Arkansas schools participate in the E-rate program. Dr. Hernandez's impressive credentials make him an excellent fit for the Board and will serve USAC well.

I appreciate you reaching out to me. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Tom Wheeler

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2016

The Honorable Rick Crawford
U.S. House of Representatives
1711 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Crawford:

Thank you for your letter in support of the appointment of Dr. Michael Hernandez to serve on the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors. Your views are very important to me.

I am pleased to inform you that Dr. Hernandez has been appointed to serve on the USAC Board. I appreciated the information you provided concerning Dr. Hernandez's qualifications, including his service as Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education and his ongoing commitment to help Arkansas schools participate in the E-rate program. Dr. Hernandez's impressive credentials make him an excellent fit for the Board and will serve USAC well.

I appreciate you reaching out to me. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Tom Wheeler

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2016

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
U.S. House of Representatives
130 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Westerman:

Thank you for your letter in support of the appointment of Dr. Michael Hernandez to serve on the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors. Your views are very important to me.

I am pleased to inform you that Dr. Hernandez has been appointed to serve on the USAC Board. I appreciated the information you provided concerning Dr. Hernandez's qualifications, including his service as Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education and his ongoing commitment to help Arkansas schools participate in the E-rate program. Dr. Hernandez's impressive credentials make him an excellent fit for the Board and will serve USAC well.

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Sincerely,

Tom Wheeler

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 21, 2016

The Honorable French Hill
U.S. House of Representatives
1229 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hill:

Thank you for your letter in support of the appointment of Dr. Michael Hernandez to serve on the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors. Your views are very important to me.

I am pleased to inform you that Dr. Hernandez has been appointed to serve on the USAC Board. I appreciated the information you provided concerning Dr. Hernandez's qualifications, including his service as Assistant Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education and his ongoing commitment to help Arkansas schools participate in the E-rate program. Dr. Hernandez's impressive credentials make him an excellent fit for the Board and will serve USAC well.

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Sincerely,

Tom Wheeler