



KENNETT CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

300 EAST SOUTH STREET KENNETT SQUARE, PENNSYLVANIA 19348
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May 4, 2016

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Request for Waiver of Invoice Deadline Extension, CC Docket No. 02-6
FRN 2648971, Form 471 # 960605
Kennett Consolidated School District, SLD Entity # 126206

Petition for Waiver

The Kennett Consolidated School District requests a waiver of the newly enacted regulation concerning invoice deadline extensions, and requests permission to file a BEAR form.

The District timely requested an invoice deadline extension of the original deadline of October 28, 2015 which was approved. The new deadline was February 25, 2016.

The Applicant relies on online billing access in order to be able to retrieve the bills to calculate the amount of reimbursement and to prepare the BEAR form for the above-listed FRN. The Applicant experienced a problem with online bill access for this service provider, which created a considerable delay in the ability to obtain bill copies in order to prepare the reimbursement calculations and BEAR form. Meanwhile at the same time, the District was trying to set up the EPC portal and ensure that all of its entities including NIFs were included in the portal, and was also trying to correctly submit a Form 470 application. With these multiple E-rate tasks facing them, the District was unable to meet the February 25, 2016 invoice deadline.

This year and particularly the past nine months since the introduction of the new EPC portal is unlike any other time in E-rate history where the District has been required to adapt and learn an entirely new online filing interface. The interface is not at all intuitive and it has been very time consuming to learn how to navigate the new system. This has distracted from, and left little time for, the other E-rate tasks such as filing the BEAR forms for the FY 2014 period. At the same time that the new online filing system was introduced, the FCC's new rule that curtailed the SLD's discretion to grant late submitted invoice deadline extensions went into effect. This was a "double whammy" of sorts that did not provide any flexibility to the District to manage the various E-rate tasks and deadlines.

The District respectfully submits that the unique situation posed by the introduction of the new online filing system (EPC) creates special circumstances that justify granting this waiver.

These circumstances were not in effect and could not have been contemplated when the FCC first adopted the new more restrictive invoice deadline extension regulation. The District implores the FCC to grant some leniency with meeting the new invoice deadline requirements and to allow the District to file the BEAR form.

The amount of funding for the BEAR is \$32,940.26 based on the District's BEAR calculations that have since been completed. The District intended to use this funding to help pay for more WIFI equipment in order to ensure that the broadband service inside its school buildings is adequate to support its educational initiatives.

The District understands that the FCC wants to ensure that the E-rate program is run efficiently and that the funding from prior years is relinquished promptly and made available for future year funding commitments. The District shares this goal and believes that the FCC still will be able to meet this important goal and at the same allow for some modest flexibility in the invoice deadline to allow for applicants to become accustomed to the new online filing system and the new more restrictive invoice deadline requirement.

Respectfully,

/s/ Dan Maguire
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