



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

JAN 11 1999

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JAN 13 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. Robert G. Harms
519 W. Wooster Street
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

Dear Mr. Harms:

Thank you for your electronic mail message to President Clinton regarding a charge that may be added to some consumers' telephone bills by carriers to recover their contributions to the universal service support mechanisms. The White House has asked me to respond to your inquiry.

On May 7, 1997, the Commission adopted a first Report and Order to implement the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendations on universal service as required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act). The Commission established universal service support mechanisms that fulfill Congress's goal, as stated in Section 254 of the 1996 Act, of ensuring that affordable, quality telecommunications services are available to all American consumers, including low income consumers and those located in high cost, rural, and insular areas. In addition, these mechanisms implement Congress's mandate to ensure the nation's classrooms and libraries receive access to the vast array of educational resources that are accessible through the telecommunications network. These support systems also will link health care providers located in rural areas to urban medical centers so that patients living in rural America will have access, through the telecommunications network, to the same advanced diagnostic and other medical services that are enjoyed in urban communities.

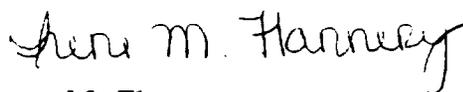
The 1996 Act requires all telecommunications carriers that provide interstate telecommunications services to contribute on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis to universal service. The Commission implemented this statutory provision by requiring all such telecommunications carriers to contribute to the universal service support mechanisms. Neither Congress, nor the Commission, requires such carriers to pass this contribution on to their customers. To the contrary, carriers decide how and to what extent they recover their contributions. Carriers, however, may not mislead customers as to how they recover contributions and may only recover an equitable share from any particular customer.

The Commission is monitoring the universal service support mechanisms and their impact on telephone ratepayers. This issue will be carefully reviewed as the support mechanisms are administered.

No. of Copies rec'd 3
List ABCDE

Your letter has been placed in the official public record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-45). I appreciate your interest and views on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Irene M. Flannery".

Irene M. Flannery
Acting Chief, Accounting Policy Division
Common Carrier Bureau

cc: President William Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OEOB
96-45B
#6200

5-14-98
DATE

MEMORANDUM FOR:

FCC, 32

FROM:

SUE J. SMITH *SJS*
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF AGENCY LIAISON

SUBJECT:

REFERRAL OF CASEWORK IN BULK

An unprecedented number of individuals still write the President and the First Lady for help. I know that this has meant a far greater volume of mail for your agency than ever before. I appreciate your continuing cooperation in our efforts to be as responsive as possible.

The attached letters have not received a White House Staff response. I am forwarding this correspondence to your agency for any appropriate action.

Please return the original incoming letter, along with a copy of any written or telephone response, to me at the address below. I also would appreciate your sending a copy of your agency's log of the names and addresses of these individuals. Any misreferrals should be returned to my office. If you have questions you can reach me at 456-7486.

Sue J. Smith
Director, Office of Agency Liaison
Room 6, OEOB
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20502

Again, thank you for your continuing help.

A/RCC

From nobody@www2.whitehouse.gov Thu Jul 30 11:34:23 1998
Date: Thu, 30 Jul 1998 11:33:45 -0400
From: "ROBERT G. HARMS" <rgharms@wcnet.org>
Subject: Inbound-White_House_WWW_MAIL => PRESIDENT
Apparently-to: president@WhiteHouse.GOV
To: president@WhiteHouse.GOV
Errors-to: The Postmaster <postmaster@www2.whitehouse.gov>
Reply-to: "ROBERT G. HARMS" <rgharms@wcnet.org>
Message-id: <199807301533.LAA09465@www2.whitehouse.gov>

Keywords: WWW-Correspondence; ; Register disagreement with a position;
Education; Private Citizen;
Comments: Forwarded from White House WWW
Comments: This message scanned by SCAN version 0.1 jms/960226

[Connection Information]

CLIENT: dialup-4-11-bg.wcnet.org[205.133.171.155]
BROWSER: Mozilla/3.04Gold (Win95; I)
URL: http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/Mail/html/Mail_President.html

[Sender Information]

PERSONAL-NAME: ROBERT G. HARMS
EMAIL-ADDRESS: rgharms@wcnet.org
ORGANIZATION: self
RELATIONSHIP:
STREET-ADDRESS: 519 W. Wooster St.
CITY: Bowling Green
STATE-PROVINCE: Ohio
ZIP-CODE: 43402
COUNTRY: SUA

[Message Information]

PURPOSE: Register disagreement with a position
TOPIC: Education
AFFILIATION: Private Citizen
SUBJECT: MR. GORE'S PROPOSED PHONE TAX

[Message]

Dear Mr. President,
I am informed by Citizen's Against Government Waste that your administration plans to request the increase of the UNIVERSAL SERVICE TAX in the amount of \$120 per year per household to fund internet access for schools.

I am opposed to such an increase in taxes because I believe that local schools should decide on whether such expenditures

are warranted and how they should be funded.

Thank you for taking my views into account.

Rob Harms

PS: I enjoyed the Speaker's prayer for the nation and the two capital policemen's families.