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MAY 21 1999

Our Lady of Lourdes School

1600 EAST REED ROAD
GREENVILLE, MISSISSIPPI 38701

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

May 10 9 23 AM '99

May 5, 1999

Commissioner Susan Ness
FCC
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

UK

96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Dear MS Ness,

I am writing to urge you to support the \$2.25 billion in E-Rate discounts for the year-two of the program. It is vital that the country's children have access to tools such as the Internet in order to compete in the global economy of today. As educators, it is our duty to equip our students with the best we have to offer. As you are well aware, some areas of this country are not as affluent as others. The e-rate discount affords everyone an equal opportunity to acquire the necessary tools our students so desperately need.

In our case alone, we are a small parochial school in the Mississippi Delta. Many of our students will never have the opportunity to travel outside the state much less experience the world beyond. Internet access allows our teachers to provide opportunities to our students which they could not otherwise experience.

In the first year of the e-rate Our Lady of Lourdes received a 50% discount on internet access and a 50% discount on a dedicated 128K Frame Relay. All of our computers are located in the classroom to allow for the most access by the students. The e-rate discount has allowed us to connect a computer in each classroom to the Internet. This tool is proving invaluable for all grades, K-6.

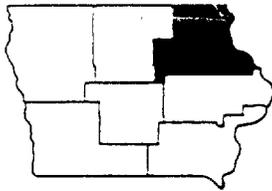
Without this discount, Internet access is out of our reach as it is for many other schools like us. Again, I urge you to keep the \$2.25 billion amount as is in order to fund as many of the applicants as possible.

Sincerely,

Sister Marie E. Alspaugh

Sister Marie Alspaugh, SSJ
Principal
Our Lady of Lourdes

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NORTHEASTERN IOWA REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

415 Commercial Street, Waterloo, IA 50701-1385 FAX (319) 233-1964 (319) 233-1200

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Administrator -- James Sixta

MAY 10 9 20 AM '99 MAY 21 1999 Consultant -- Ken Davenport

Susan Ness
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

May 5, 1999

Cc: Commissioners
Rep. Nussle
Sen. Grassley & Harkin
V/P Gore

LK

96-45

Dear Commissioner:

Gordon M. Ambach, Executive Director of Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) wrote you a letter that starts: "I am writing to urge the Commission to establish a funding level for the universal services program for schools and libraries at \$2.25 billion for the year beginning July 1, 1999 and ending June 30, 2000. We urge your decision on this level of funding be made at the earliest possible time so there is good information available to applicants with respect to the potential chances for funding of their applications during this year."

I do not believe you fully understand just what the e-rate means to many small libraries. In NE Iowa there are 85 libraries serving populations of less than 70,000 people in Waterloo to 88 people in Littleport. The average library serves a population of less than 1000 people both rural and town, three of the eighty-five libraries serve populations of over 10,000. Below the short list.

SO WHAT DOES E-RATE MEAN TO THE LIBRARIES SERVING RURAL & TOWN?

Often it means a **second** phone line. Many of the libraries run all their communication via one phone line, that means that if a student wants to go on-line to do research all other library electronic library activity STOPS.

Sometimes it means that the library **gets its own phone** for the first time. Rural & Town serving libraries in order to save funds often need to share the phone with the city clerk or fire department. As you can guess if you are sharing the phone line with other city services you may not tie the phone line up for an hour of Internet use, especially if the other service is the fire department.

Each year several new libraries are constructed, last years e-rate cut meant that 3 libraries did not put in badly needed internal wiring, the time to wire is when you are building!

Internet access - Most rural & town libraries have dial-up access to the Internet at 14.4 or poorer, but many do not even use that because of the cost of long distance to reach the Internet Service Provider. The e-rate IF fully funded would go a long way toward helping this situation also.

Ken Davenport

Ken Davenport - Consultant
NE Iowa Regional Library System
(Consultant) C:\OFFICE\WPWIN\WPDOCS\GRANTS\E-RATE\FCC WPD

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e-mail sixta/davenport/riesberg/luppen@www.neirls.org

A consulting service of the Northeast Iowa Regional Library System.

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MAY 5, 1999

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MAY 10 4 23 PM '99

Hon. Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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MAY 21 1999

Dear Commissioner Ness:

Federal Communications Commissioner
Office of Secretary

I hope the Federal Communications Commission will take whatever steps are necessary to bring about a significant reduction in access fees charged by local phone companies.

These fees are really a hidden tax on consumers. The local phone company (here in Connecticut, we have SNET) charges the long distance company, and the long distance company passes the charge on to us. In the end, the money goes straight into the pocket of the local monopoly.

It would be one thing if the phone company was up front about the charge, and simply listed it as a line item on the bill. At least that way, there would be a chance average consumer would know about the charge.

But by hiding the fee in an access charge that is passed along from one company to another to the customer, most citizens probably have no idea that their bills are being inflated in this way.

The FCC should end, or at least scale back, the charges local phone companies tack onto our bills. I urge you to support efforts to lower access fees.

Respectfully,



Carl Hein
310 Farmcliff Drive
Glastonbury, CT 06033

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Memo from: Vernon Dorto

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MAY 21 1999

CK

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

MAY 10, 1999

MEMO TO: SUSAN NESS
RE: E-RATE FUNDING

DEAR COMMISSIONER,
 PLEASE VOTE IN FAVOR
 OF FULL LEVEL FUNDING OF
 E-RATE MONEY FOR CATHOLIC
 SCHOOLS AT 2.25 BILLION
 APPROVED BY OUR LEGISLATORS. PLEASE
 ALLOW OUR CHILDREN THE BEST
 EDUCATION POSSIBLE. THEY ARE
 OUR FUTURE.

SINCERELY
Mr. Vernon Dorto

CUMBERLAND PKG

05/10/99 08:14 FAX 718 858 3039

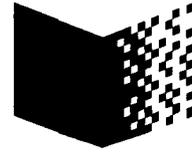
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Pierce County
Library System

INFORMATION ■ IMAGINATION

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

May 5, 1999

Commissioner Susan Ness
FCC
445 12th St., SW
Washington, DC 20554

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RE: CC Docket 96-45

Dear Commissioner Ness:

As the second year of the E-rate funding program begins, I urge you to increase funding for the program which was cut significantly last year. Without the discounts this funding provides, many schools and libraries will be unable to provide the telecommunications connections necessary to provide access to the wealth of information available on the Internet. Information literacy is a vital part of today's world and it is imperative that schools and libraries be able to provide the latest telecommunications services to the public in order to connect people to information.

With the increased demand for program funding, I urge you to consider fuller funding of this program in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Sharon Winters
Deputy Director, Support Services

cc: Vice President Albert Gore
Representative Norm Dicks
Representative Jennifer Dunn
Representative Adam Smith
Senator Slade Gorton
Senator Patty Murray

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OFFICE OF
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT
JERRY W. SHIVELEY

Superintendent
Edward L. Schmitt

Deputy Superintendent
Jerry W. Shiveley

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Multnomah Education Service District

May 5, 1999

Commissioner Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

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MAY 21 1999

RE: CC Docket 96-45

Dear Commissioner,

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

It is my understanding that the Commission will soon be considering the size of the funding for the 1999-2001 E-Rate.

The Multnomah Education Service District Network & Information Services department provides networking and Internet services to approximately 35,000 students in eight school districts. All of our school classrooms are wired and connected to our wide area network and the Internet. Teachers are integrating into their lesson plans the resources available on the Internet and we are trying to keep up with the rapid increase in demand for bandwidth.

As in many areas of our nation, Oregon has great difficulty in funding school district operational costs. Our agency is facing the potential of either reduced or flat funding for the 1999-2001 period. The discounts available from the E-Rate are highly critical to our ability to continue to offer network and Internet services to the 35,000 students and their teachers.

For the January 1998 through June 1999 we are receiving \$111,668 in E-Rate discounts. For the July 1999 through June 2000 we have applied for \$106,798. These discounts are being applied back to funding services which are of direct benefit to students and teachers. We are and will be doing things like adding Web filters, proxy servers, expanded bandwidth, and a student information system geared toward helping teachers meet the information needs of 21st century education

Please do what you can to fully fund the E-Rate program.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Premore, Director
Network & Information Services

Edward L. Schmitt
Superintendent

C. Vice President Gore, Oregon Senators, Multnomah County Representatives
Erate0503

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Utah Education Network

**Eccles
Broadcast
Center**

University of Utah
101 Wasatch Drive
Salt Lake City,
Utah 84112-1792
801-585-6013
801-581-5735 Fax

May 5, 1999

The Honorable Susan Ness
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

ck 96-45

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Reference: Open Docket #96-45

Dear Ms. Ness:

This letter is written in behalf of the Utah Education Network's support for the Universal Service Fund (E-Rate) discounts applicable to educational entities for telecommunications services, internal connections, and Internet access for public schools and libraries. As the Executive Director of the Utah Education Network, I would like to express, in the strongest terms possible, my support for funding E-Rate at \$2.25 billion as requested by the Schools and Libraries Division.

Our Network supported by E-Rate has quickly become the central nervous system of the schools. It provides, to our schools, access to relevant up-to-date information, improved communication between teachers, students and parents, and a means for efficient delivery of administrative and educational services. The Internet and Intranets supported by E-Rate are essential. Without the continued support of E-Rate, schools and students, particularly in the rural and poorer areas of the state, will be severely disadvantaged.

One of the Utah Education Network's benchmarks is that students will be provided with learning opportunities to develop the information technology, information literacy, electronic collaboration, and problem-solving skills necessary to be competent, functional, and competitive in the job market and society. I firmly believe that these efforts will provide Utah's students with 'world class' educational experiences which will help them to succeed in the 21st Century.

I recognize that there will be continual pressure for modification, even reductions, to the Program, but encourage you to resist pressures that would reduce or limit the potential impact of the Program. It is our responsibility to provide the students of this country with the best possible educational experiences. Anything less would be a significant disservice to the students we serve and the citizens in our state. E-Rate, if funded at \$2.25 billion as requested by the Schools and Libraries Division, has the potential of assisting in this task.

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Hess
Executive Director
Utah Education Network

cc: Vice President Albert Gore
Senators Orrin Hatch and Robert Bennett
Representatives James Hansen, Merrill Cook and Chris Cannon

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