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THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS of SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Thomas J. Keating, Principal

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 10, 2000

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW, Room Cy-B402  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. CC-00-176/  
Application by Verizon for Authorization under Section 271  
To Provide Long Distance Service in Massachusetts

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am writing to provide an urban educator's viewpoint to your evaluation of Verizon's long distance application in Massachusetts.

The Duggan Middle School serves a vastly diverse population in the heart of Springfield, Mass. With that, we are keenly aware of the need to make the benefits of technology and competition accessible to individuals, schools and other community-based organizations in urban settings.

For the past 25 years, Duggan Middle School has been teamed with Verizon on a number of school-based educational and technology initiatives. These projects have brought Internet services to our classrooms, trained our teachers to use new technology, and incorporated technology into our lesson plans. As schools and the communications technology continue to evolve, Verizon is the kind of partner that continues to deliver.

Having another choice for all communications services, including long distance, Internet, and data services, can't help but provide benefits to schools. As more schools and more teachers integrate technology into their classrooms, the cost - even with Erate funds - becomes an important factor in school budgets. The addition of Verizon as a full provider in the long distance and Internet business will help improve prices, service and options for schools. The families of our students, many of whom have tight budgets, will also benefit from simpler, less expensive long distance plans from a company that is an important part of their community.

I support Verizon's long distance application for all it will bring to schools, non-profits and consumers. I hope you will as well.

Sincerely,

Thomas Keating  
Principal

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