



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

AUG 23 2000

CC: 96-45

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
United States Senate
370 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3102
Attn: Marietta Mayfield

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Senator Bingaman:

Thank you for your letter expressing concerns regarding the application filed by the Eastern Plains Instructional Television Consortium for support under the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism. As you know, the Commission has taken significant steps to promote access to telecommunications services in schools and libraries pursuant to section 254(h) of the Communications Act of 1934. I recognize the importance of this support to schools that want to provide their students access to telecommunications technologies.

Consistent with our obligation to review appeals of decisions made by the Schools and Libraries Division of the Universal Service Administrative Company, we currently have the Eastern Plains Instructional Television Consortium's appeal under consideration. Although I am unable to comment on the merits of this appeal while it remains under review, I will ensure that your letter is placed on the record for consideration in this proceeding. We expect to issue a decision on the appeal in the near future. A copy of the decision will be sent to the Eastern Plains Instructional Television Consortium.

Thank you for your interest in this important issue. Please contact the Accounting Policy Division at 202-418-7400 if you have any additional questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Katherine L. Schroder
Deputy Chief, Accounting Policy Division
Common Carrier Bureau

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