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Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

NOV 21 2000

CC: 96-45

The Honorable Trent Lott
United States Senator
245 E. Capitol
Suite 226
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Senator Lott:

Thank you for your letter expressing concerns regarding the application filed by the Newton County Schools 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.

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 Newton County Schools' 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 Newton County Schools.

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,

Mark Seifert
Deputy Chief, Accounting Policy Division
Common Carrier Bureau

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