

Dear FCC, I strongly urge you to support and pass the e-rate waiver to provide internet access to rural Alaska, docket 96-45. I work with the University of Alaska distance education program and collaborate with various social and educational organizations providing programs to rural Alaska. With internet access, post-secondary rural Alaska students can obtain timely financial aid information, student support through daily email communication, the ability to submit assignments regardless of the local Alaskan weather and the ability to conduct information searches for research projects. These students are working toward obtaining needed workforce skills or are looking to fulfill the future workforce demands in Alaska. Additionally, many of the federal programs such as those administered by the federal Department of Labor require that reports are filed electronically, with access rural Alaskan programs will be able to meet this requirement as well as access many of the variety of resources available for such programs on the internet. Please consider the many positive outcomes internet access will provide the most rural and remote area of the United States, rural Alaska. Thank you for the opportunity to comment,
Malinda Chase