

March 19, 2002

To: William Caton
Federal Communication Commission
455 12th Street Southwest
Washington, DC 20554

CC: 96-45

CC Docket 96-45
SLD Appeal for South Lane School District

From: Scott Baker, Network Engineer
South Lane School District
455 Adams Avenue
Cottage Grove, Oregon 97424
Phone: 541-767-3778
Fax: 541-767-3041
sbaker@lane.k12.or.us

RECEIVED

MAR 25 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Concerning: **Missed Deadline Waiver Request for Year 3 Bear Forms.** We filed our Bear forms on Monday, February 4, 2002. The filing deadline was Thursday, January 31, 2002.

Funding Request Numbers and Amount:

FCC Form 471 Application Number	FRN	Customer Billed Date	Total Undiscounted Amount of Service	Total Discounted Amount of Service
178160	359426	6/2001	\$30,720.00	\$22,425.60
178160	359488	6/2001	\$26,748.00	\$19,526.04
178160	359560	6/2001	\$3,000.00	\$2,190.00

Explanation:

The Erate process is fairly new to our department. We were assigned the task recently and have worked hard at juggling the three years of concurrent forms that are active in the Erate process. We have just finished our first complete cycle and are developing an understanding of how the procedure works.

Scott Baker has been assigned the responsibility of Erate and is the contact person now for the district. Just before Christmas, Scott's daughter was diagnosed with breast cancer and he was out of the office much of January. His focus was on helping care for his two small grandchildren and his daughter as she proceeded through the surgery and treatment. This fragmented his work schedule and postponed the regular order of many projects. This happened during the time that he would normally have processed the Bear forms.

On January 10, 2002, John Ward from SLD contacted Dorothy Howard, Scott's administrative assistant concerning a correction of a FRN # for Excel. The case number was 105349. Explaining

No. of Copies rec'd 012
List ABCDE

that Scott was out of the office due to a family emergency, Dorothy supplied the corrected information and faxed a corrected copy to John, initialing it for Scott.

During that conversation John was asked to check South Lane's status for Erate and to verify if the district had any forms due. He noted, correctly so, that all forms were current. Later we realized he was referring to Year 4, a fact that Scott caught several weeks later upon his return to work. Consequently, we missed the deadline by a few days. While this is no excuse, those few days have huge implications for our district.

South Lane is a fairly small district. Losing \$44,000 would be devastating to our technology program and to our district as a whole. We are currently in the process of a significant budget cut effective July 1, which has been brought on by a down turn in Oregon's economy. This money has been figured in the budget process and is included in our projected budget that is currently in the balancing stage. If we were denied this funding, it would mean an even larger impact on our district.

Your records will indicate that we were current in all the other deadlines for Year 3 as well as being current for Years 4 and 5. All other paper work for year 3 was filed and approved. Upon learning of the deadline, Friday, February 1st, we filed the very next business day, Monday, February 4th. For our district to miss out because of this unfortunate circumstance would indeed be a burden and a heavy price to pay for a one-day mistake. Do we have any options to rectify this situation? We are willing to do whatever it takes to correct our error.

We talked with Jason Haith from SLD about being proactive on this. He told us that we needed to wait until we were contacted by SLD with a denial and then to proceed with our appeal. We were notified March 18th by Helen Gail from SLD that our reimbursements were being denied and could start the appeal. We want to address this as soon as possible

Thank you for considering our wavier request.

Scott Baker
South Lane School District 45J3