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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, ARTS AND LIBRARIES  
LANSING

DR. WILLIAM ANDERSON  
DIRECTOR

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas, Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Suite TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

March 25, 2002

**RE: Comments Submitted by the Office of the Michigan Information Network Pertaining to [CC Docket No. 02-6] Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism**

Dear Ms. Salas:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) our support for the above referenced comments submitted to the FCC by the Office of the Michigan Information Network (MIN). The comments were drafted by the MIN Work Group, which includes several agencies, including the Library of Michigan and the Michigan Department of Education, that attempt to coordinate efforts within Michigan regarding the E-Rate program.

We at the Library of Michigan believe that in order to improve operations, ensure equitable distribution of program funds, prevent fraud, waste, and abuse, and make working with the E-rate program easier and more convenient for all parties, changes in program rules must be made. We have worked collaboratively with the agencies represented in the MIN Work Group and have developed the above referenced comments recommending changes to the application process, payment options and other post-funding commitment issues, appeals, audits, unused funds, and specific outmoded administrative and procedural rules.

While many libraries in the state of Michigan have benefited from the E-rate program over the past four years, many others, especially those in remote and economically disadvantaged areas, have been hindered from benefiting. This is due to the lengthy, complicated and confusing application process, restrictive payment options, and the inability to make changes that occur during the funding cycle through no control of the applicant (such as changes in service providers). We have outlined some of these critical issues in our response to the NPRM.

We hope the FCC will give serious consideration to making the recommended changes so that all schools and libraries will benefit from this program.

Respectfully,

Christie Pearson Brandau  
State Librarian