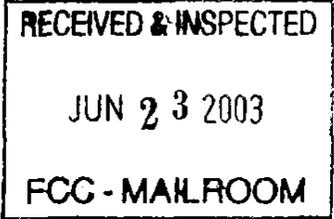


# TAMAROA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #5

*Robert Trover, Superintendent*

P.O. Box 175  
Tamaroa, IL 62888  
PHONE (618) 496-5513



## Letter of Appeal

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 - 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

School / Applicant Name: Tamaroa School District #5  
200 West Main St.  
Tamaroa, IL 62888  
Phone: (618) 496-5513  
Fax: (618) 496-5513

Cc docket no. 02-6

Entity Number: 136784

District Contact: Robert Trover, Superintendent

**APPLICATION NUMBER: 340729**

**FUNDING REQUESTS: 918147, 918162, 918172, 918190**

**NOTICE OF FUNDING YEAR 2003 – DENIAL OF FUNDING**

This Letter of Appeal is to appeal the SLD's determination that all of Tamaroa School District's funding requests for Year 2003 were denied due to our 470 -- **number 316130000426277 - Posting Date: 11/06/2002** -- that was deemed "not certified" within the application window.

We submit that myself and a secretary from the district attended a training session on how to fill out the 470 on-line, which we completed on November 6, 2002. Subsequently, we attended a meeting a little over a month later to complete the 471 and again did everything we were told to do, including submitting the forms. We submit that we sent in the required signature pages over regular postal service, but now we are being denied because we cannot supply evidence of this.

We file this appeal because we believe the determination here was based on several very mistaken assumptions which have more to do with bureaucracy and needless paperwork, than with the actual intent and goals of the program. For example:

### **"Guilty until Proven Innocent" Approach**

- The de-facto requirement by the District to have to prove the mailing, even though we submit it was mailed through regular mail, has caused Tamaroa to have its small (\$6051) application denied. Other schools have been caught in this situation as well. We believe that when problems that arise at the Post Office, the mail handlers at the SLD or other employees of the SLD, we should be allowed the opportunity to be reviewed, and if necessary, correct the issue by allowing schools to re-submit missing certification pages, so long as it is before the start of the funding year, presumably when the funding would begin.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### **470 Signature Page Requirement**

- We submit that the requirement for the signed certification on an on-line submitted 470 misses the whole point of the 470. The 470 is a notice to vendors that they may potentially bid for services – ***this will happen as soon as the 470 is posted on the web-site, regardless of the signature page.*** A signature page does not prohibit a school from moving forward with a vendor on a tentative contract ( by tentative, we mean one that will not begin until the beginning of the funding year, conditional upon funding) even before the end of the window. In fact, the SLD requires schools to have some kind of agreement at the submission of the 471, so the **posting** of the 470 is the issue, not the signature page.

#### **Revamping the 470**

- We ask that the SLD and FCC take a hard look at the actual need for the 470. In small, rural schools like ours, our choices of vendors are limited. We encourage competition and seek better alternatives for our services – our fiscal and fiduciary responsibilities as school administrators deems that we do no different – but the 470 is not the answer for us. Our state and local procurement rules allow us leeway to select those vendors that best serve our needs at any time of the year, not just during the 470 “window”. In many ways, the 470 is an impediment to competition. We should be allowed to procure as needed, and seek a simple one-time, blanket 470 to cover small schools like ours. Up to now, the 470 has been used as a bludgeon to deny small applicants like Tamaroa monies, it is not the “pathway to competition” that it was intended to accomplish. This was not the goal of Congress when it approved the program.

Tamaroa’s telecommunications users have paid the fees to support the Universal Service Fund, under the very noble pretense that it would help their schools. It is a shame that our students have to suffer as a result of a bureaucratic technicality, not a substantive issue that would lead to any mismanagement, misuse or abuse of the fund.

We ask that the FCC, through the SLD, allow Tamaroa the opportunity to re-submit the 470 signature page, and allow the application to continue to be reviewed in an effort to have Tamaroa participate in the program for Funding Year 2003.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

 6-18-03

Robert Trover, Superintendent, Tamaroa Grade School

CC: Congressman Jerry Costello