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ASSOCIATES

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JUL 29 2004
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July 21, 2004

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Meeting

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I write to inform you of a July 20, 2004 ex parte meeting that the below listed members of the Education and Libraries Network Coalition (EdLiNC) conducted with Dan Gonzalez of Commissioner Martin's office. During this meeting, members of EdLiNC discussed with Mr. Gonzalez the Commission's Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that seeks comment on proposed rules changes to the Universal Service's Schools and Libraries Program (CC Docket No. 02-6, FCC 03-323). EdLiNC members discussed their opposition to proposals to lower the top discount level for internal connections, referencing rationales included in their filings. Specifically, EdLiNC members object to any discount matrix adjustment because: 1) the lowest income applicants, who this program was designed to serve, might be unable to participate if they have to pay a higher share of eligible service costs; 2) the new "twice every five years" rule, designed to combat waste, fraud and abuse, should be afforded ample time to work before establishing new rules to combat the very same problem; and 3) applicants may be so confused by proposed rule changes that they will be deterred from applying at all. EdLiNC members also discussed problems with various proposals that would mandate that applicants audit themselves, including concerns about the cost to applicants and the program of self-auditing and the question of whether even low dollar applications must also audit.

The following people attended this meeting:

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Jon Bernstein | Leslie Harris and Associates |
| Carrie Lowe | American Libraries Association |
| Sally Shake | Education Legislative Services |

1120 I. Street NW

Washington DC 20037

202 478 6301

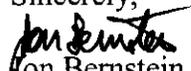
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|----------------|--|
| Chris Pearsall | United States Conference of Catholic Bishops |
| Manish Naik | Council of Great City Schools |
| Todd Haiken | National PTA |
| Debra Rigsby | National School Boards Association |
| Bob Woodall | Philadelphia City Schools |
| Dale McDonald | National Catholic Education Association |

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Dan Bernstein

Vice President, Government Relations and Policy

cc. Dan Gonzalez, Commissioner Martin's Office