Richland College
DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

April 11, 2007

Chairman Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street
Room 8-B201
Washington, DC 20554

In regards to Docket #07-16

Dear Chairman Martin:

As an educator and former chair of the Dallas School Board I am writing you today in support of proposals that would provide free nationwide internet access.

There is a digital divide in our nation that separates children in their educational learning opportunities. While those from higher income families have access to the internet and use it regularly for their school work, many from our lower income families do not. The Dallas School District and other school districts have worked hard to eliminate this divide, but it continues to exist and will continue to exist until such time as we can provide an affordable and easy to access internet capability for all in our country.

According to the Department of Education, only 59% of children have access to the internet, only 41% of children from households with less than $20,000 in income use the internet. That is unacceptable.

It is my understanding that you have before you a proposal from M2Z Networks (Docket # 07-16) on this issue. I would hope that you would give this proposal your consideration. It offers our country the opportunity to eliminate the digital divide in our educational system creating greater education opportunities for each child and youth.

Sincerely,

Lois Parrott

Lois Parrott, Ph.D.

Richland College
Dallas County Community College District

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