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FCC Mail Room

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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
9300 East Hampton Drive
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

RE: Request for Wavier - CC Docket No. 96-45 and CC Docket No. 02-6

E-Rate Form 471

(BEN)/Billed Entity Numbers – District Name
133927 - Long Prairie/Grey Eagle School District 2759
133953 – Menahga School District 821
133955 – Park Rapids Area Schools District 309
133957 – Pillager School District 116
133960 – Sebeka School District 820
133966 – Wadena-Deer Creek School District 2155

Dear Ms. Dortch

I am asking for a waiver from the FCC for several school districts that I do E-Rate filing for. These schools are in a very depressed area of Northern Minnesota and the districts, through no fault of their own were a week late in getting their form 471 in on time, including the district I work for. One of the schools, Wadena Deer Creek was totally destroyed by a tornado last year as was most of the town. They are in the process of rebuilding the school and going on with their lives. I truly believe in my heart that this would be in the public's best interest. None of the schools are asking for huge amounts, and to the best of my knowledge all of the schools are funded partly by taxpayer operating levies.

I work for the Park Rapids Area School District as Technology Director and just happen to fill out several schools E-Rate forms. Filing E-Rate forms is not my full time job. As Technology Director my duties vary greatly from fixing a broken computer to hanging SMART Boards and everything in-between.

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I think that this was due to a glitch between the software I use, 'E-Rate Manager' and USAC's new website. I'm not positive what went on for sure though. All I know is that the school districts will suffer the consequences, and I really missed the mark in not catching this sooner! I discovered the anomaly when I was filing the 471's for the remaining districts that I do. There are some districts that went through on time and some that didn't. It's really puzzling to me.

I believe that these are consistent with your precedence and that the violations do not constitute substantive violations of the Commission's rules, but instead are procedural violations, and therefore, a complete rejection of these applications is not warranted. It's my hope that you find that these applications were filed close enough to the deadline so as not to impair the administration of the program.

I believe that the commission has in the past observed that in the *Bishop Perry Order*, the primary jobs of most of the people filling out these forms include school administrators, technology coordinators, and teachers, and the majority of their time is not dedicated to pursuing federal support, especially in small school districts, which all of them are. I do my best to correctly navigate the E-rate application process; but that unexpected events such as my E-Rate Manager Software and USAC's new website may have been the cause of the unanticipated delays.

It's my hope that rigid adherence to filing procedures does not further the purposes of the Act, but does serve the public interest. Please note that granting these requests for waiver should have a minimal impact on the universal service fund because the money needed to fund these requests is so small.

There is no evidence of waste, fraud, abuse, misuse of funds, or a failure to adhere to core program requirements. I hope you find that good cause exists to grant our request for waiver of the FCC Form 471 filing window deadline found in section 54.507(c) of the Commission's rules.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeffrey Hunt
Director of Technology
Park Rapids Area Schools
Park Rapids, MN