

TORNILLO ISD

Post Office Box 170
Tornillo, Texas 79853



We Make Dreams Come True!

April 29, 2012

Received & inspected

MAY - 7 2012

FCC Mail Room

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization)	WC Docket No. 11-42
)	
Lifeline and Link Up)	WC Docket No. 03-109
)	
Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service)	CC Docket No. 96-45
)	
)	WC Docket No. 12-23
Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training)	

Dear Sir/Madame:

I am writing today in response to the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking which, among other things, proposes a Digital Literacy Pilot to fund schools and libraries operating digital literacy training courses. Before delving into my response to the proposed pilot, I want to first thank the FCC for your continued support for the E-Rate program. The E-Rate program provides critical discounts to assist Tornillo ISD to obtain affordable telecommunications and internet access.

We are a rural district, one of the ten most property-poor districts in Texas. But, we have been named by the National School Boards Association to be in the top ten nationally (small schools division) for educational technology; four consecutive years. We could not accomplish this without funding from the E-Rate program.

The pilot would provide grants to K-12 schools and libraries, lasting four years, to hire trainers, conduct training courses and provide resources/materials to those who lack digital literacy skills. While the FCC does not propose to fund the pilot using E-Rate funds, it does propose implementing and administering the program through the same division that oversees the E-Rate program. Specifically, the FCC proposes implementing/administering the program through the Schools & Libraries Division of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).

Paul Vranish – Superintendent
Email: VranishPL@tisd.us

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List ABCDE
(915) 765-3007 – Phone
(915) 765-3099 – Fax

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I am concerned that operating the pilot through E-Rate will undermine the important and ongoing work of E-Rate, causing delays in the program's application and appeal processes, creating auditing problems and results in problematic precedents for E-Rate's eligible services. **Specifically, I oppose the proposal to operate/administer the proposed pilot through the E-Rate program.**

A reduction in E-Rate funding for Tornillo ISD will severely hinder our ability to stay abreast, in technology, with school districts whose property wealth allows them to self-fund their telecommunications. It would definitely be a detriment to our children.

Thank you for considering my response as you move forward with your decision on the Digital Literacy Pilot. I applaud the FCC for its continued efforts to protect the already oversubscribed E-Rate program by not funding the pilot with E-Rate funding. I urge you to take similar protective measures when it comes to the implementation and administration of the pilot; please ensure that critical, limited E-Rate resources—both fiscal and administrative—are protected.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Vranish".

Paul Vranish