

August 10, 2012

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals, TW-A325
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Presentation
Schools and Libraries Universal Support Mechanism – CC Docket No. 02-6;
A National Broadband Plan for Our Future – GN Docket No. 09-51.**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Thursday, August 9, 2012, several members of The Quilt held a conference call with several FCC staff members concerning the E-rate program rules and the Eligible Services List (names of attendees are set forth below). The Quilt represents over 30 Research and Education (R&E) networks across the U.S. These R&E networks are non-profit organizations that often provide a variety of advanced networking, internet and related services schools and libraries in their states.

The Quilt members expressed their continued support for the E-rate program and indicated that it is vitally important to provide services to schools and libraries. The Quilt members discussed the eligibility rules and eligible services under the E-rate program. For instance, Quilt members raised questions about

- the eligibility of services such VOIP, web-hosting, desktop virtualization services
- the future funding levels of the E-rate program,
- the possibility that some services currently classified as Priority 2 services could be classified as Priority 1,
- the scope of E-rate eligible services that can be provided by non-telecommunications carriers,
- whether the 2010 E-rate order had led to increased funding requests for dark and lit fiber services, and
- the availability of program guidelines to better understand the criteria for separation between an entity that files as a consortium on behalf of several schools and libraries and a related entity that provides E-rate eligible services.

Attending the meeting were: Jim Stewart (Utah Education Network); Chip Byers and John Gillispie (MOREnet); Cort Buffington (KanREN); Von Royal and Amy Lehman (OneNet); Jim Moran and Leslie Williamson (Merit Network); John Windhausen (on behalf of The Quilt), and

Jennifer Griffin and the undersigned on behalf of The Quilt. Participants from the FCC were James Bachtell, Cara Voth, and Regina Brown.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jen Leasure". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jen Leasure
President and CEO
The Quilt

cc: James Bachtell
Regina Brown
Cara Voth