November 25, 2013

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

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication, WC Docket No. 13-184

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On November 22, 2013, DeLilah Collins of the Colorado Department of Education spoke via telephone with James Bachtell, Soumitra Das, Charles Eberle, David Strickland, Cara Voth, and Mark Walker of the Wireline Competition Bureau. The purpose of the call was to the status of broadband connectivity in Colorado schools and to gather input on the Commission's July 23, 2013 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the above-referenced docket.

Mrs. Collins provided background information on E-rate in Colorado. There are 1,118 schools and 863,561 students in the state. Colorado schools a total of $26,358,387 in E-rate commitments in 2011, $25,382,133 in 2012, and $17,707,846 thus far in 2013.

Mrs. Collins explained that Colorado is a local control state, and the Department of Education does not collect statewide data on broadband speeds or rates for school districts. The state has minimal oversight of school procurement, most of which is handled locally. She noted that there are efforts underway to increase statewide cooperation and promote consortium purchasing.

The Department of Education also recently conducted a statewide survey to determine whether schools are prepared to administer the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) standardized assessment. The governor's information technology office is also conducting a statewide broadband study. She briefly discussed EAGLE-Net, an intergovernmental entity that is building broadband to rural schools across the state. EAGLE-Net reaches out to schools directly and does not coordinate with state agencies.

Colorado supports increasing state-level control over E-rate support, including providing block grants to the states, and-eliminating the distinction between priority one and priority two services. Mrs. Collins also explained that in her experience districts are in the best position to determine which services and equipment they need and in many instances the current rules cause districts to simply re-apply for priority one services that they know will be funded even if they have a greater need for priority two services.

Mrs. Collins explained that few Colorado school districts receive priority two funding because the average E-rate discount is approximately 70%. She advocated for lowering the top

discount rate, suggesting 75%, because in her view school districts that receive 90% discounts receive a disproportionate portion of total E-rate funds. Lastly, she noted that the overall cap on E-rate support should be increased.

Respectfully submitted,

_____/s/_____
Charles Eberle
Attorney-Adviser, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau