

January 25, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* presentation in WC Docket No. 13-184 and WC Docket No. 10-90.

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Thursday, Jan. 23, 2014, several representatives of The Quilt met with Nick Degani in Commissioner Pai's office to discuss E-rate reform and the Connect America Fund. The Quilt representatives included Jen Leasure (President and CEO of The Quilt), Joe Freddoso (CEO of MCNC), Don Welch (CEO of Merit Networks), Pankaj Shah (Executive Director of OARNet), and John Gillispie (CEO of MORENet). The Quilt members explained that R&E networks have a long history of participating in the E-rate program, both as network providers and as consortium applicants on behalf of schools and libraries. They suggested that the E-rate program should be reformed to include a capital investment fund, should support internal connections inside the school and library buildings, should equalize the treatment of dark fiber and lit fiber because of the cost-savings that can be achieved with dark fiber, and should simplify and streamline the application process. The Quilt members also pointed out that state R&E networks are organized differently from state to state and the FCC should not assume a one-size-fits-all approach. They also discussed the variety of factors that influence the costs of deploying broadband networks. We also said that R&E networks would be very interested in participating in experiments using a portion of the Connect America Fund to deploy high-capacity broadband to anchor institutions in rural areas.

Further information is contained in the attached powerpoint materials that were distributed at the meeting.

Sincerely,



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cc: Nick Degani