

To Whom It May Concern:

I am extremely disappointed to hear the FCC and USAC have denied ALL priority 2 funding requests for ERate FY 2013-14!

Just in maintenance alone, our school district spends over \$60,000 per year! Rural schools in Oklahoma are hard pressed to find qualified individuals to maintain all of our networks and equipment without aid from outside companies. The \$60,000 does not include the salary of the individual who serves as our Computer technician!

Plus, with the new state-mandated testing via internet, we will need newer servers, routers switches and more wireless access points to provide wireless in every classroom. Even though we will be funded for a higher bandwidth circuit, it will be difficult to find the monies to fund these necessary items.

We are a 90% school. Many low-income families in our district. Getting bond issues passed in our community is extremely difficult if not impossible. We are proud of the technology our district has been able to obtain and maintain to date. However, without funds, there is no way to keep up with the ever changing technology. We strive to give our students every opportunity regarding technology, but that is ONLY possible when we receive our ERate funding and discounts! The over \$250,000 we receive in funding/discounts allows us to use our other federal/state/local dollars to provide highly-qualified teachers and staff, computers, Smart Boards as well as general classroom supplies and materials.

Our state has cut the education budget to a point we are now working on a 2008 amount! Our school has learned to be conservative and live within our budgets and still maintain staff and technology for our students. We cannot maintain forever with monies being cut at every turn!

Please reconsider funding priority 2. Priority 2 items are expensive to both purchase and maintain. As President Obama states he would like to have high speed internet to every school in the United States, without funding for Priority 2 items, it will be useless.

Sincerely,

Jan Cowen
Administrative Assistant
Hartshorne Public Schools