

ALA American Library Association

May 22, 2014

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

RE: WC Docket No. 13-184

Dear Secretary Dortch:

On May 20, 2014 Marijke Visser, Assistant Director, ALA Office for Information Technology and Alan Fishel, Senior Counsel, OITP met with Priscilla Argeris, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Rosenworcel. The following topics were discussed:

ALA proposed focusing a significant portion of the \$2 billion down payment on addressing the specific obstacles those libraries furthest behind in reaching the 1 gigabit capacity goal. In many instances these are small and rural libraries where high-capacity broadband is not available or available but not affordable. Additionally, small and rural libraries often lack the expertise to develop the sophisticated networks necessary to provide today's library services. The Commission could use the down payment to make a significant difference for rural and small libraries by supporting a state-centric network diagnostic and technical support plan to encourage development of cost-efficient library networks. These "two-for-one" proposals will immediately benefit the lowest performing libraries and schools while also providing evidence for cost-effective practices that will ultimately lead to more efficient use of E-rate funds

ALA also proposed that the Commission designate a portion of the \$2 billion down payment toward ensuring library LAN and WiFi networks are sufficient for both public access computers and the increasing proliferation of patron-owned devices. These services continue to be important for libraries though ALA believes that using the entire \$2 billion in this manner will inadvertently disadvantage rural and small applicants as their capacity "to the door" needs remain.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Marijke Visser
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American Library Association
Washington Office