



June 17, 2014

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Meeting with Chairman Wheeler Ex Parte Filing for California Emerging  
Technology Fund, E-Rate Modernization Program for Schools and Libraries,  
WC Docket 13-184

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This filing is a timely-filed Notice of an Ex Parte Presentation by Sunne Wright McPeak, President and CEO of the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF), to Chairman Thomas Wheeler, Gigi B. Sohn, Special Counsel for External Affairs, and Daniel Alvarez, Legal Advisor, on June 16, 2014 at the FCC headquarters building, in Washington, D.C.

CETF advocated for reform of the E-rate program coupled with E-rate funding for robust, high-speed internal wireless connectivity at schools to improve academic achievement and close the digital divide for students from low-income families attending low-performing schools in urban poor and rural communities. CETF expressed support for eliminating E-rate funding for outdated technologies.

In the case of schools, CETF expressed support for E-rate funding for the home connectivity of computing devices that go home with the students in a low-income community if a school has implemented a comprehensive program such as School2Home with significant student, teacher and parent digital training on the computing devices. CETF advocated for an increase of the E-rate fund cap in order to fund internal connections as well as cost-effective technology approaches with transparency and accountability to achieve the most efficient use of existing E-rate funds. CETF also suggested that FCC consider a sequenced and linked approach to E-rate reforms, with accountability for improved educational outcomes, the immediate allocation of new one-time funds for broadband upgrades and internal connectivity in classrooms, followed up by an increase in the overall fund cap.

Drawing on learnings from its School2Home program in California, CETF underscored the need to understand the challenges of broadband adoption for very low income families. Ms. McPeak argued there needs to be an affordable broadband rate at home for low-income families by all broadband providers, not just one large broadband/cable provider, as a companion for E-rate modernization. CETF suggested the FCC -- with the leadership of the Chairman -- has a rare chance to provide a bold vision for how E-rate funds should result in improved academic performance, and urged there be metrics and accountability for the program.

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The attached handouts were left with the Chairman and his advisors which included a letter to the Commissioner from CETF summarizing its presentation, a summary of its arguments contained in its comments filed in the FCC E-rate modernization docket on April 7, 2014, an overview of the School2Home program, and the most recent CETF Annual Report.

Sincerely yours,



Rachelle B. Chong  
Attorney for CETF

Cc: The Honorable Thomas Wheeler, Chairman  
Gigi Sohn, Special Counsel for External Affairs  
Daniel Alvarez, Legal Advisor