



Monday, June 30, 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 Thursday June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Susan Feller, President of the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM); Dr. Traci Morris, Advisory Council Member of ATALM; and Dr. Miriam Jorgensen, Research Director, Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy, the University of Arizona, and the Research Director, the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, Harvard Kennedy School met with Lisa Hone, E-Rate Manager, Telecommunications Access Policy Division of the Wireline Competition Bureau and Jonathan Chambers, Chief of the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis. The following topics were discussed:

- ATALM's research record and forthcoming research on tribal libraries, which includes data indicating that 43 percent of Tribal Libraries are the only providers of public access in the region; that 11 percent of Tribal libraries do not offer public internet access; that at least 40 percent and maybe as high as 89 percent of Tribal libraries do not have broadband connectivity; and that only 15 percent of Tribal Libraries report receiving E-Rate discounts and only 17 percent have applied for them.
- ATALM discussed the uniqueness of Tribal libraries and how they differ from public libraries. They do not receive the same monies, they are often not eligible for services from state library agencies; they serve large and geographically diverse areas; locations can be extremely remote; and their staff's are extremely small and often do not have the same training as traditional librarians because of their need to work with intellectual and cultural proprieties.
- ATALM suggested a number of action items to increase Tribal library access to E-Rate funding. Suggestions included, but is not limited to: creating a Tribal Library Priority for E-Rate funding; creating a Tribal Library set aside; addressing eligibility requirements; simplifying the application process; conducting meaningful outreach; developing tribally specific training; and involving tribal leadership in the process.

The Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM) is a non-profit organization that supports the work of tribal archives, libraries, and museums. More information about our activities and partners may be found under the "About ATALM" tab at [www.atalm.org](http://www.atalm.org)

Respectfully,

Susan Feller, President

Cc: Letitia Chambers, ATALM Chairman of the Board

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Ex Parte of the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums

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