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Joanne Budler, State Librarian

State Library of Kansas

Sam Brownback, Governor

July 18, 2014

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

Re: **Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet WC Docket No. 14-28**

Dear Secretary Dortch:

Broadband service has become a necessity in our society today much as electricity became a necessity in the early 20th century. People need Internet service to apply for jobs, sign-up for healthcare, complete homework, launch a business, and communicate with elected officials. Yet 14.5 million rural Americans do not have access to broadband service in their home. In many communities the local public library provides the only access to high speed broadband services.

Allowing Internet providers to sell fast Internet lanes to those who can afford them would permit a decreased service to be offered to customers who cannot afford to pay for the fast lanes. Libraries located in rural areas may not have the additional funding necessary to pay the higher rates that may be required to ensure patrons have access to the best possible Internet speeds.

To guarantee that every person in our country can get online and access vital services, and to ensure equitable Internet access for public library patrons, the State Library of Kansas feels strongly that the FCC should reclassify Internet service as a Title II Telecommunications Service.

Our nation's libraries are committed to equity of access—including, and perhaps especially, for the roughly 30 percent of Americans who lack home broadband access. The State Library of Kansas respectfully requests that the FCC reclassify Internet as a Title II service and implement strong consumer protections that prohibit Internet providers from marginalizing the needs of residents in rural areas. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Joanne M. Budler
State Librarian