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March 28, 2012

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The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**0417**

Dear Chairman Julis Genachowski:

I am writing in regard to the Piedmont City School District's participation in the FCC's "Learning on the Go" (LOTG) pilot program.

The FCC selected the Piedmont City School District to be one of 20 participants in the LOTG program, which enables schools and libraries to deliver internet connectivity and digital learning over portable devices outside of their facilities. The Piedmont City School District was the only school district in Alabama chosen to participate in the program, and I am especially proud of its successes in increasing technology utilization in underserved populations.

The Piedmont City School District has become a national leader in educational technology, as evidenced by the success of the district's "MPower Piedmont" one-to-one laptop initiative, which provides a computer to all students in fourth through twelfth grade and has put a computer in 500 homes for the first time. These accomplishments are particularly noteworthy given the city's rural demographics and low household incomes, with 65 percent of students qualifying for free or reduced-price school meals. Participating in the LOTG program will allow the Piedmont City School District to extend its learning day by providing at-home internet access for all students, including those who were previously financially prevented from obtaining at-home internet access.

It is my understanding that the FCC has extended the LOTG pilot to October 31, 2012. However, this extension allows less than a six-month window for implementation and evaluation of the success of the pilot. I am writing to offer my support and urge your consideration of the Piedmont City School District's proposal to extend its pilot program for two years in order to collect sufficient data for an effective evaluation. Furthermore, I ask that you extend an invitation to the Piedmont City School District to meet with you and your staff regarding its impact on the educational opportunities for students in rural Alabama.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If I can answer any questions or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

  
Richard Shelby

RCS:mvy

cc: Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn