



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

April 11, 2014

The Honorable Michael Michaud  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1724 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Michaud:

Thank you for your letter regarding modernization of the Commission's rules governing the Schools and Libraries universal service support mechanism – also known as the E-rate program. I particularly appreciate your constructive support for ensuring that the E-rate program is well positioned into the future.

Modernization of the E-rate program is among the most important tasks currently facing the Commission. As you point out in your letter, it is critical to America's future to ensure that our schools and libraries have affordable access to modern high-capacity broadband technologies. I am a strong advocate for and believe in the E-rate program, and the need to modernize its operation to emphasize high-speed broadband. I have attached two recent speeches on the topic.

Commission staff is reviewing the record that has been developed in response to the July 2013 *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, and meeting with stakeholders to ensure that we have robust input from all interested parties. Just a few weeks ago, the staff released a *Public Notice* seeking focused comment on a handful of specific issues that have been raised by commenters. And my goal is for the Commission to adopt an Order later this spring that would implement fundamental structural and administrative changes, the results of which would go into effect in 2015. We need to ensure that the E-rate program supports the high-capacity broadband needed to give our students access to twenty-first century educational opportunities, while simultaneously improving the efficiency and administration of the program and establishing explicit program goals and measurements. We will include your letter in the record of the proceeding for Commission consideration as we proceed with reform of this important program.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler".

Tom Wheeler

Enclosures