October 28, 2015

The Honorable Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We are pleased to extend our support of the renomination of Julie Tritt Schell to serve as the schools representative on the USAC board beginning January 1, 2016. Ms. Tritt Schell currently serves as the chair of the Schools and Libraries Committee, and also serves on the Executive and Audit Committees. Her leadership in USAC board matters has been a wonderful asset to USAC, the FCC and all stakeholders.

Ms. Tritt Schell is uniquely qualified to serve in this role. As the Pennsylvania State E-rate Coordinator for 17 years, she assists 1250 schools and libraries by providing hands on training and outreach, and she files E-rate funding applications for PAIUnet, the high-speed broadband network that interconnects the intermediate units. She has a panoramic view of the E-rate program that enables her to thoroughly understand the FCC’s policy goals and vision of the E-rate program as well as the impacts of USAC’s administration of the program rules and requirements in the field. Consequently she is able to make contributions as a board member that are unique in her role as an E-rate practitioner.

She has been an instrumental voice in encouraging USAC to engage in more stakeholder outreach which we have found to be extremely beneficial. For example, she has helped to encourage USAC to reach out to applicants to receive feedback on the new online Form 471 that is being developed. Ms. Tritt Schell builds bridges among applicants and USAC, and ensures that the administrator is aware of the applicant experience.

E-rate modernization has required USAC and applicants alike to implement many changes over the past year to achieve the broadband goals and vision to meet the future needs of students and library patrons. We believe that continuity on the USAC’s Schools and Libraries Committee and particularly with the chair of the committee will be particularly helpful during this period of transition.

For these reasons we encourage you to reappoint Julie Tritt Schell to the USAC Board.

Sincerely,

Q. Val Hale  
Executive Director  
Utah Governor’s Office of Economic Development