

United States Congress

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 8, 2014

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Chairman Thomas Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We are writing to express our support for North Carolina's efforts to be a showcase state for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as the FCC works on implementation of the ConnectEd initiative and the E-rate program.

As you learned recently from Lieutenant Governor Dan Forest and State Superintendent of Public Instruction June Atkinson, North Carolina has invested heavily in digital learning since 2005. Over \$150 million in state funds have served as a match to E-rate funds distributed to the State's public school districts and public charter schools. As a result, 97% of North Carolina's K-12 schools will be served with dedicated fiber connections by July 2014.

While our state has made great strides in building critical infrastructure, only 22% of students have the "desktop access" they will need to take full advantage of digital learning opportunities. Since 2005, a bipartisan commitment has been made by all the relevant policymaking bodies in North Carolina, from the Governor, General Assembly and others, to address this challenge by fully integrating digital content within North Carolina's classrooms. Improving the internal wired and wireless networks within our schools is now a key focus.

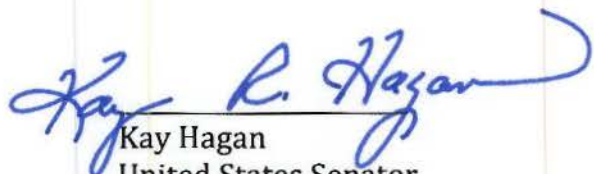
As you continue your implementation of the E-rate program, it is clear that the nation would benefit from a select few states serving as models to others, demonstrating the planning, policy framework and sustainable funding required for the K-12 transition to digital learning. North Carolina has positioned itself to be just that model. We look forward to working with you.

Thank you for your kind attention and consideration.

Sincerely,



Richard Burr
United States Senator



Kay Hagan
United States Senator

Howard Coble

Howard Coble
Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones

Walter Jones
Member of Congress

G.K. Butterfield

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Renee Ellmers

Renee Ellmers
Member of Congress

Richard Hudson

Richard Hudson
Member of Congress

Robert Pittenger

Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress

David Price

David Price
Member of Congress

Mike McIntyre

Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress

Patrick McHenry

Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress

George Holding

George Holding
Member of Congress

Mark Meadows

Mark Meadows
Member of Congress