

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 6, 2009

**1823**

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
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 Genachowski:


We are writing to express our support for the nomination of Ms. Sylvia K. Norton to the Board of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). Her experience and knowledge particularly with the Schools and Libraries Program (E-rate) of the Universal Service Fund would be very beneficial to the USAC board.

Since 2002, Ms. Norton has served as the State E-rate Coordinator for the Maine Department of Education. In this position, she has provided expert guidance and training on the E-rate program and its application process to Maine's 200 school districts and 650 schools. In addition, she is the USAC-certified approver in Maine for school technology plans, and is an active member of the State E-rate Coordinators' Alliance (SECA), the organization that nominated her to the school's representative position.

Ms. Norton plays a significant role in professional development for the Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI)—a program that provides laptop computers to all students in the 7<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grades. MLTI, coupled with the E-rate program, has truly transformed teaching and learning in classrooms in our state through leveraging the full potential of information technology and the Internet. In addition, she has served on Maine's Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Advisory Council and the Microsoft Educator Advisory Council. Her involvement in these programs and councils has provided her with extensive knowledge of the rules and policies of the E-rate program as well as technology planning and implementation, which would be very valuable to the USAC Board moving forward.

Given her experience and knowledge as well as her deep commitment to the E-rate program, it is with great enthusiasm that we support Ms. Norton's nomination. We hope that you will give her the consideration her background and expertise merit.

Sincerely,

  
OLYMPIA J. SNOWE  
United States Senator

  
SUSAN M. COLLINS  
United States Senator