

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

November 18, 2009

**1907**

The Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing you today to provide my full support for the nomination of Dr. Sheryl Abshire of Louisiana to serve on the Board of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).

Dr. Abshire's vast experience and leadership in the education and technology field, her intimate knowledge of the E-Rate program, and her outstanding accomplishments in educational technology policymaking make her uniquely qualified to serve as a member on the USAC Board.

Over the past 37 years, Dr. Abshire has become a national leader in the education field and has held numerous leadership roles including Chairman of the Consortium for School Networking, President of the Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators, and a member of the National Education Association's Legislative Committee. Dr. Abshire is also a twenty year veteran board member of the Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana and recently completed a four year term as Chairman of the Board.

In addition to her leadership roles, Dr. Abshire's wealth of hands-on experience with the E-Rate program, combined with her knowledge and advocacy roles concerning E-Rate policy at the national level make her a wonderful candidate for this position. In 2005, Dr. Abshire testified before the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee concerning E-Rate policy and this past summer, she provided testimony to the Commission on the role of education in the upcoming national broadband plan at a Commission convened workshop.

Dr. Abshire's appointment to join the USAC board has been requested by a number of education and technology organizations throughout the country including the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN), the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), the National Education Association (NEA), the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL), the National Association of Independent Schools, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Catholic Educational Association, and the State Educational Technology Directors Association.

I join these organizations in lending my support to Dr. Abshire for this position. I am confident that her vast knowledge, experience, and leadership skills will be a tremendous asset to the USAC board and will help guide universal service and the E-Rate Program successfully.

Therefore, I ask that you give Dr. Abshire's candidacy your full consideration and urge you to accept her nomination. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu  
United States Senator



David Vitter  
United States Senator



Charlie Melancon  
United States Congressman



Charles Boustany  
United States Congressman



Rodney Alexander  
United States Congressman



Anh Joseph Cao  
United States Congressman