

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0102

April 18, 2016

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Chairman Wheeler,

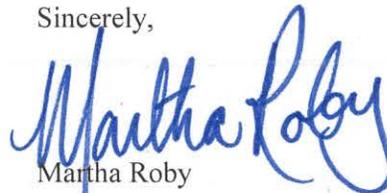
As you know, Congress provided the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) with the authority to support communications services to rural schools and libraries in Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-104). The Commission has used Sec. 254 to open universal service funding to schools and libraries through what is commonly referred to as the E-rate Program. The E-rate Program funds are managed and administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). The FCC adopted Order 15-1012 to modernize the E-rate Program on September 11, 2015. In this Order, the Commission provides the eligible services list (ESL) for funding year 2016 under the E-rate Program, and discusses modifications to the *ESL Public Notice* in response to public comment.

My office was contacted by small and independent cable telecommunications providers in my district with concerns regarding the *Second E-rate Modernization Order* and ESL parameters established in Order 15-1012. I would ask for answers to the following questions:

- 1) How will the Commission ensure that small and local telecommunications providers remain an integral part of the Commission's deployment of universal service funds through USAC, and specifically the E-rate Program; and,
- 2) How will the Commission ensure federal funds spent through the E-rate program are used solely to promote the deployment of broadband to schools and libraries?

Thank you in advance for your reply, your consideration of these priorities, and for the Commission's work to support broadband access across rural America.

Sincerely,



Martha Roby
Member of Congress

CC: Mike Dabbs, Director of Legislative Affairs