

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

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April 17, 2020

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Waiver Request Aleutians East Borough School District* WC Docket No. 13-184

Dear Chairman Pai:

We are writing to support the “Waiver Request Relating to Off-Campus Use of Existing E-rate Supported Bandwidth” filed by the Aleutians East Borough School District (AEBSD) on April 3, 2020.

We appreciate the flexibility you have extended to participants in the E-rate program by extending program deadlines to enable schools and students to focus on the urgent challenges presented by the COVID-19 crisis. As the Commission recognizes, potential disruptions caused by the coronavirus should not also disrupt the essential connectivity the E-rate program provides.

The coronavirus outbreak has caused all Alaska’s schools to be closed through the end of this school year. The AEBSD, consisting of approximately 250 students and 50 staff, many of which do not have high-speed internet access in their homes, is located in Southwestern Alaska along the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Chain, between Kodiak and Dutch Harbor. Sand Point, AK, the location of the District Office, is approximately 550 air miles to the southwest of Anchorage, AK. In responding to this unprecedented challenge, the AEBSD has been diligent in seeking out creative solutions to support continued education for students in their district. As part of that effort, AEBSD has created a new solution, which would allow students to connect to the school via a radio signal broadcast within the community. This broadcast would allow students to continue their education while safely at home.

Alaska’s schools are uniquely spread across a vast geography and rely on broadband supported by the E-rate program, as you have observed during your travels in Alaska. The more remote the school, the more critical the program is in bringing connectivity to teachers and students. We commend AEBSD staff for their dedication and determination to use the resources available to them to continue educating their students.

We urge you to consider the very limited waiver requested by AEBSD to allow the E-rate program to fulfill its purpose of supporting student connectivity during these unprecedented circumstances.

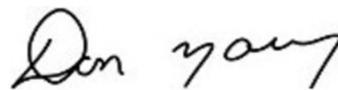
Sincerely,



LISA MURKOWSKI  
United States Senator



DAN SULLIVAN  
United States Senator



DON YOUNG  
Congressman for All Alaska