

STATEMENT
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL

*Re: Requests for Waiver of the Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by
Adams County School District 14, Commerce City, CO, et al., and
Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6*

*Re: Requests for Review of the Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by
Alpaugh Unified School District, Alpaugh, CA, et al., and
Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6*

*Re: Requests for Review or Waiver of the Decision of the
Universal Service Administrator by
Brownsville Independent School District, Brownsville, TX, et al., and
Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6*

By adopting these three orders, we are granting 182 appeals of decisions taken by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) that reduced or denied funding by applicants of the schools and libraries universal service mechanism. This program promotes the noble goal of assisting schools and libraries in the United States to obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access. I support these decisions for several reasons. First, each of these appeals involves technicalities in the USAC procedures. Our actions here do not substantively alter the eligibility of the Schools and Libraries program. Furthermore, we find no indication of any intention to defraud the system on the part of any of these applicants. Also, our decisions and USAC's actions on appeal should have minimal effect on the level of the Universal Service Fund, because USAC has already reserved sufficient funds to take into account pending appeals. Finally, I am pleased that we impose reasonable time limits on USAC to address these cases on appeal so they can be resolved expeditiously.