



LIBERTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #2



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November 2, 2017

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 03-66; Amendment of Parts 1, 21, 73, 74 and 101 of the Commission's Rules to Facilitate the Provision of Fixed and Mobile Broadband Access, Educational and other Advanced Services in the 2150-2162 and 2500-2690 MHz Bands

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I am writing to you on behalf of Liberty Community Unit School District #2 to address the need for broadband services to students within our school district. Many rural communities, including Adams and Pike counties in Illinois, do not have universal access to fast and reliable broadband services. This limitation impacts Liberty CUSD #2's educational mission. While the school itself has access to a high-capacity fiber-based Internet connection, the majority of our student households have limited or no access at all. Education is an extremely important and powerful tool that should be given the utmost consideration when formulating policy. In our technology-driven world, it is crucial that all communities have the access to the resources they need to teach the nation's current and future leaders.

While there is no complete solution to this problem, a very effective and low-cost step is for the FCC to issue new Educational Broadband Service (EBS) licenses in currently unlicensed areas. On June 6, 2014, the National EBS Association, the Catholic Telecommunications Network, the Hispanic Information Telecommunications Network and the Wireless Communications Association International (WCA) submitted a Consensus Proposal to the FCC. Liberty CUSD #2 supports the Consensus Proposal which would allow the FCC to issue one or more new licenses covering Adams and Pike counties in Illinois. The issuance of new EBS licenses would allow for either direct construction by Liberty CUSD #2 and/or leasing of excess capacity to commercial operators who could handle network construction.

On behalf of Liberty CUSD #2, I urge the FCC to address the issue that vast areas – more than half of the land area of the U.S. – are not covered by EBS licenses. The Consensus Proposal to issue new licenses is already in place and has been agreed to by many prominent members within the EBS community. We request that the FCC act to facilitate the positive impact these new licenses can have in our community. Issuing new licenses per the Consensus Proposal is the quickest and most cost-effective way to promote broadband access in rural America and requires only the reconciliation of FCC rules.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Thank you,

Kelle S. Bunch
Superintendent