

2014-2015 ALA Tribute #5\_2115\_act  
2015 ALA Midwinter Meeting

*This tribute resolution was adopted by the ALA Council on Tuesday, February 3, 2015*

A Tribute Resolution Honoring Tom Wheeler, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, for His Leadership in Modernizing the E-rate Program to Advance Broadband Opportunities for America's Libraries, January 2015

Whereas high-capacity broadband connectivity is fundamental to unfettered access to information, as was recognized by the Council of the American Library Association in its Resolution on Universal Access to Broadband, adopted January 19, 2010;

Whereas high-capacity broadband connectivity is essential for 21st century library services; and

Whereas the E-rate program, established in the U.S. Telecommunications Act of 1996 and part of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Universal Service Fund, has been instrumental in connecting America's public libraries to broadband;

Whereas the E-rate program continues to be the largest federal technology program dedicated to providing access to advanced telecommunication services to public libraries and K12 schools;

Whereas FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler led a comprehensive and well-articulated multi-phase effort to transition the 18-year-old program from supporting 20th century telecommunications services to promoting high-capacity broadband capacity to support 21st century learning through our nation's public libraries and K12 schools;

Whereas his leadership, vision, and commitment were evidenced through the concerted and coordinated efforts of FCC Commissioners and their staffs, as well as staff in his office, the Office of the Managing Director, Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis, and the Wireline Competition Bureau;

Whereas the actions of the Commission through the E-rate Modernization proceeding provide new opportunities for building library broadband capacity—including a \$1.5 billion annual increase in E-rate funding—at a critical juncture in the evolution of library services and connectivity;

Whereas the American Library Association and its E-rate Task Force have advocated from the inception of the E-rate program for sufficient funding and program improvements to support public access to the internet through libraries; and

Whereas the Chairman, Commissioners, and Commission staff championed the value of libraries and worked collaboratively with ALA; now, therefore, be it

Resolution Honoring Tom Wheeler, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, for His Leadership in Modernizing the E-rate Program to Advance Broadband Opportunities for America's Libraries, January 2015/2

*Resolved*, that the American Library Association, on behalf of its members:

1. extends its deepest appreciation to Chairman Wheeler for his vision for connecting America's libraries and schools to high-capacity broadband to best serve our communities nationwide.
2. recognizes with gratitude Chairman Wheeler and the Commission for their unflagging work throughout the 18-month E-rate Modernization proceeding.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association  
Tuesday, February 3, 2015, in Chicago, Illinois



Keith Michael Fiels  
Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council