

RESOLUTION ON REAFFIRMATION OF ALA'S CONCERN FOR LIBRARY TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- WHEREAS, The library community and the nation's library users have become largely dependent on affordable telecommunications, including private line services for accessing information and central bibliographic computer services; and
- WHEREAS, The recent changes in the telecommunications industry have resulted in the degeneration of telecommunications service and the threat of sharply higher costs for library telecommunications; and
- WHEREAS, In conference in January, 1984, the American Library Association approved a resolution calling for a library private line tariff for data transmission, which would set rates at an affordable level; and
- WHEREAS, No legislation is currently before Congress which would provide relief to libraries facing unreasonable telecommunications price increases; and
- WHEREAS, Congressional support for affordable library telecommunications has been demonstrated by twenty-seven United States Senators who signed a letter authored by Senator Larry Pressler and addressed to the Federal Communications Commission, calling for the FCC to adopt a library private line tariff; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association reaffirm its support for legislative action to guarantee permanent, universal, and affordable access to telecommunication services; and, be it
- FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Library Association also support the need for Federal regulation to insure reliable installation, repair and maintenance services for library telecommunications; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association continue to seek legislative or regulatory relief at national and state levels from high telecommunications charges.

Adopted by the Council of the
American Library Association
Dallas, Texas
June 27, 1984
(Council Document #59.2)

RESOLUTION OF TRIBUTE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- WHEREAS, Recent access charge decisions and pending divestiture related tariffs are having a major impact on the cost to libraries of telecommunications; and
- WHEREAS, These developments threaten to weaken the efforts of librarians to share resources and enhance service delivery to the nation's library users by raising library telecommunications prices significantly; and
- WHEREAS, Senator Larry Pressler (R-SD), a Member of the Senate Communications Subcommittee, has recognized the public interest served by libraries and the unique role of libraries in providing universal access to information; and
- WHEREAS, Senator Pressler has spearheaded a sustained effort to protect libraries and their users from the impact of sudden and significant rate increases for existing telecommunications services; and
- WHEREAS, Senator Pressler's efforts included development of an amendment to S. 1660, the Universal Telephone Service Preservation Act of 1983, which would have prohibited rate increases harming existing library services; and
- WHEREAS, When action on S. 1660 did not go forward, Senator Pressler initiated a letter to the Federal Communications Commission asking for a special rulemaking on a library private line service; and
- WHEREAS, A total of twenty-seven Senators signed the May 1984 letter to the FCC, indicating strong bipartisan support for libraries as common carriers of information; and
- WHEREAS, Senator Pressler has pledged to continue his leadership in the effort to assure universal access to information; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the American Library Association commend Senator Larry Pressler of South Dakota for his leadership in assuring affordable telecommunications for libraries, express strong support for his efforts, and pledge continued cooperation in preserving universal access to information; and, be it
- FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Library Association commend the twenty-six Senators who cosigned the letter to the Federal Communications Commission on a special private line service for libraries; and, be it
- FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted to Senator Larry Pressler and to Senators John Danforth, Paul Tribble, Strom Thurmond, John Tower, Paul Laxalt, Chic Hecht, Dan Evans, Pete Domenici, Bob Kasten, Claiborne Pell, Robert Byrd, Alan Dixon, Rudy Boschwitz, John Stennis, David Boren, Paul Sarbanes, John Melcher, Jennings Randolph, Quentin Burdick, Tom Eagleton, Carl Levin, Sam Nunn, David Pryor, Wendell Ford, George Mitchell and Daniel Moynihan.

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