

ALA American Library Association

January 15, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 13-184

Dear Secretary Dortch:

On January 9, 2014, Alan Inouye, Director, Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP), American Library Association (ALA); Larra Clark, Director, Program on Networks OITP; Marijke Visser, Assistant Director, OITP; and Alan Fishel, Senior Counsel, OITP, met with Jonathon Chambers, Chief, Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis, to discuss ALA's vision for libraries as a result of the current E-rate proceeding.

During the meeting ALA discussed the multi-faceted roles libraries play in providing access to the internet and digital resources in their communities. As the other educational home, libraries support traditional K12 and non-traditional students such as the 1.5 million homeschooled students, students pursuing a GED, and students involved in distance learning. Libraries also serve as the gateway for technology access for the general public—for employment, health information, government services, and social connections. ALA highlighted library services that require reliable high-capacity broadband and asserted that this trend will only continue. With growing internet-enabled services, public access to technology, broadband, and trained librarians, libraries are the one place for all in communities across the country.

We also discussed potential broadband capacity metrics for libraries, such as whether it would be based on a building-level, per-capita level or per-library-device level. Finally, we discussed how consortia or bulk buying opportunities might be created and/or leveraged to take advantage of economies of scale.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Marijke Visser
Assistant Director, Office for Information Technology Policy
American Library Association