January 30, 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 25, 2014, Larra Clark, Director, Program on Networks, American Library Association (ALA) Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP); Marijke Visser, Assistant Director, OITP; Alan Fishel, Senior Counsel, OITP; Bob Bocher, OITP Fellow; John Windhausen, consultant, ALA; Marc Gartler, Madison (WI) Public Library; Wendy Knapp, Indiana State Library; Christopher Harris, Genesee Valley Educational Partnerships, NY; Linda Lord, Maine State Library Sue Sherif, Alaska State Library; Anne Green, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; and Chris Jowaisas, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation met with Jonathan Chambers, Chief, Federal Communications Commission 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 participants discussed the multi-faceted roles libraries play in providing access to the internet and digital resources in their communities. Discussion focused on cutting-edge services that are dependent on high-capacity broadband such as video conferencing for job interviews and providing multi-media labs for STEM activities. Participants also discussed future trends of library services to highlight the exponential growth in broadband needs. Lastly, participants shared ideas on the benefits and challenges for consortia applications; the variety of library network configurations that influence the need for priority two services; and the need for technical support, particularly for small libraries, in procurement of services. Participants suggested that technical support could come through state library agencies, state research and education networks, or municipal networks.

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