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ALA American Library Association

February 27, 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 February 20, 2014, Stacey Aldrich, Deputy Secretary for the Office of Commonwealth Libraries, Jarrid Keller, Acting Deputy State Librarian, Marijke Visser, Assistant Director, American Library Association Office for Information Technology Policy (OITP), Larra Clark, Director, Program on Networks, OITP, and Alan Fishel, Senior Counsel, OITP met with Lisa Hone, Charles Eberle, Kate Dumouchel of the Technology Policy Access Division, and Nick Alexander and Jonathan Chambers both of the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis, FCC. The following topics were discussed:

Both Pennsylvania and California have completed a comprehensive review of the broadband connectivity of libraries in each state. Findings from the assessment in California show that 27 percent of libraries are still using a T1 line and 40 percent have speeds under 5Mbps (roughly the equivalent of home broadband). Two percent of libraries report speeds of 500 Mbps to 1Gbps. About 28 percent of libraries have a fiber connection. Roughly 50 percent of libraries show that they are at full capacity of the available speeds. There are twenty different ISPs in California that provide service to libraries. Mr. Keller talked about the CENIC proposal to connect libraries to the high-capacity backbone network.

In Pennsylvania there are 452 library jurisdictions that are responsible for their own connectivity. Of these, a little more than 300 libraries are part of some type of library system. Forty-four percent are part of a WAN which helps manage the network for those libraries. There are two education networks in Pennsylvania KINBER, a research and education network and a network of 29 intermediate units. Costs vary widely in Pennsylvania from a few hundred dollars to more than two thousand dollars for a T1 line. In collaboration with the Pennsylvania Broadband Director, Ms. Aldrich is working to improve connectivity in Pennsylvania public libraries by: (1) Doing in depth assessments of public library networks in regions of most need. Ms. Aldrich is working with Mr. Keller to merge elements of the California survey tool and elements from the Pennsylvania assessments to create a comprehensive broadband assessment tool that can be used by any public library (2) Broadband training for library directors, staff, and trustees, and (3) overlaying where libraries are located with the state broadband map to identify the best opportunities for libraries to

connect to high-capacity broadband at affordable rates. The assessment has identified which libraries are most in need of an upgrade.

Mr. Keller and Ms. Aldrich also discussed driving factors for increasing library connectivity to as much as 1Gbps for all libraries. Both states have seen an increase in library technology usage, and especially an increase in use of library Wi-Fi. Mr. Keller provided an example of a library that had a 20Mbps connection, moved to a 100Mbps connection and within two weeks reported that it had hit full capacity to underscore that demand for high-capacity in libraries will continue to grow unless libraries have scalable bandwidth that accommodates future growth.

California's broadband assessment report can be accessed on the state library website http://www.library.ca.gov/lds/docs/Public_Library_Broadband_Assessment_2014.pdf. The results of the Pennsylvania assessment are forthcoming.

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

Respectfully submitted,



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