

March 17, 2006

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

**In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company
Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45**

Dear Secretary Dortch,

The American Library Association strongly supports the nomination of Julie Tritt Schell to serve as a Board Member of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). We feel that Julie's combination of experience, expertise, and commitment to the E-rate program makes her an ideal candidate who will best communicate the needs and concerns of libraries and schools.

Julie currently serves as the Pennsylvania State E-rate Coordinator. In this position, she communicates with hundreds of libraries and schools every year as they navigate the complex E-rate application and disbursement process. Julie has come to be known throughout the state of Pennsylvania (and indeed, across the country) as an expert on E-rate whose approachable style helps applicants get answers and solve problems. Julie is highly valued by the applicants in her state, and this is reflected by the awards she has won, including the 2000 Certificate of Merit she received from the Pennsylvania Library Association for her work with library applicants.

Julie is a nationally recognized leader in the field of E-rate. Julie's position in Pennsylvania exposes her to the widest possible range of applicants, from large urban libraries to small rural schools to suburban libraries and beyond. In addition, she is a leader in the State E-rate Coordinators' Alliance (SECA), a position that has given her the opportunity to work closely with representatives of the FCC, SLD and other E-rate related school and library groups.

Julie is committed to improving the E-rate program. We feel that Julie understands the special challenges that library applicants face, and we know that she will work closely and well with other members of the USAC board to create positive change. We feel confident that Julie will make an outstanding addition to the USAC board, and we strongly encourage you to nominate her to that position.

Sincerely,

Lynne Bradley
Director, Office of Government Relations
ALA Washington Office