

ALA American Library Association

March 30, 2009

BY ELECTRONIC FILING

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

RE: GN Docket No. 09-29

Dear Secretary Dortch:

On Friday, March 27, representatives from the American Library Association's (ALA) Washington Office, Ms. Corey Williams (Associate Director), Ms. Marijke Visser (Information Technology Policy Analyst), Mr. John Windhausen (consultant) and the undersigned met with Ms. Melissa Kirkel, Mr. Charles Mathias, Ms. Jennifer Prime, Mr. William Kehoe and Mr. Matthew Warner of the Federal Communications Commission.

The ALA representatives discussed rural libraries across the United States and their need for high speed connectivity to the Internet in response to the public notice concerning the development of a comprehensive broadband strategy. The ALA representatives addressed three main points: expanding library access to broadband, simplifying the E-rate application process and building upon the existing the role of libraries to create a national broadband plan that incorporates the unique needs of rural America.

Per our meeting, please see the attached supporting documents that complement our comments filed with the FCC on March 25, 2009.

- *ALA's Fiber to the Library*
- *A Summary of Comments on the E-rate Program Submitted by the ALA to the Federal Communications Commission (October 17, 2005)*
- *Testimony of Margaret Conroy, Missouri State Librarian, before the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, Why Broadband Matters, September 16, 2008*
- *ALA Office for Information Technology Policy's Regional Library Cooperatives and the Future of Broadband*
- *ALA's Libraries Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study 2007 - 2008*
- *ALA's Job-seeking in U.S. Public Libraries*

Sincerely,

Lynne Bradley
Director, Office for Government Relations
American Library Association