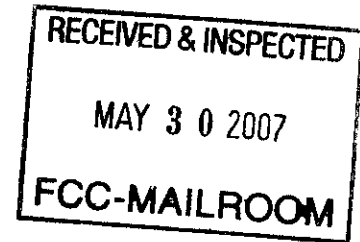


May 30, 2007

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Portals II, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554



Re: Reply Comments
Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability
GN Docket No. 07-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to submit these reply comments in support of the Comments of the American Library Association (ALA) in this proceeding. I am Alison Kattelmann, Library Director for the Haakon County Public Library. The Haakon County Public Library provides library access to a very rural population (2,196 people according to the U.S. 2000 census) in South Dakota.

The ALA raised some important issues in its comments in this proceeding. I am writing to augment some of those concerns. First, we support the ALA's request that the Commission explore the impact of broadband technologies on public libraries. As the ALA noted, about 98% of public libraries provide some form of Internet access. In Haakon County, our public library offers four computers to our patrons and all four have Internet connectivity. The Internet connectivity provided by our public library is increasingly important. We find that our public library is used by students, elderly, farmers, low-income people, teachers, and tourists. Some of the most popular uses are e-government services, networking and collaboration, research for health and education, and entertainment.

The ALA also noted, however, that only 45% of public libraries nationwide are satisfied with their level of broadband connectivity. We are concerned that the current marketplace is not working adequately to meet the needs of our public libraries. In Haakon County our primary provider of broadband services is Goldenwest Telecommunications. We have found that their prices for broadband connectivity are more excessive than our budget allows. Unfortunately, there is not another provider in the area to suit our needs. Therefore, we are forced to spend funds on Internet connectivity rather than valuable resources for the library.

As a result of these difficulties, we are not able to meet the needs of our patrons as we would like and as they expect. For instance, when patrons need resources other than Internet connectivity we do not have them readily available. Also, our library must depend on donations for print materials because we are forced to spend our funds on Internet connectivity.

For these reasons, we support ALA's suggestion that the FCC should encourage the public providers of broadband connectivity to work more closely with public libraries. Our public libraries need more bandwidth, preferably at lower rates than the general "market-based rates" that are currently being offered to us. But most important, we would like to find a way for the broadband providers in our state to work with us to find solutions to our broadband issues.

Given the important role that public libraries play in our society and economy, we encourage the FCC to increase its focus on the need to provide public libraries with enhanced broadband connectivity in this proceeding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Kattelmann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "A".

Alison Kattelmann, Library Director