(via Electronic Delivery)

October 8, 2009

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

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Presentation – GN Docket 09-51,
A National Broadband Plan for Our Future

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Thursday, October 1, 2009, the undersigned met with Blair Levin, Executive Director of the Commission's Omnibus Broadband Initiative ("OBI"), Dr. Carlos Kirjner, Senior Advisor to the Chairman on Broadband, and Steven Rosenberg, Infrastructure Manager in the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy. In the course of that meeting, questions were raised about public libraries' needs for greater broadband connectivity.

Last month, the American Library Association (ALA), Florida State University, and the University of Maryland released a report called "Libraries Connect Communities 3: Public library Funding & Technology Access Study." This report answers many of the questions raised by the FCC officials at the meeting. Findings include:

> • 71% of public libraries report that they are the only source of free public access to computers and the Internet in their communities;
>
> • 80% of libraries provide hands-on assistance to patrons for understanding and using e-government resources – up 6% from the previous year;
>
> • 90% of libraries offer formal or informal technology assistance to library users; and
>
> • 80% of libraries do not have enough computers to meet patron demand at all times of the day.

On behalf of ALA, I am attaching a copy of the Executive Summary of the study. The entire study can be found at www.ala.org/plinternetfunding. I hereby request that these materials be included in the record of the above-captioned proceeding.

Sincerely,

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