

November 4, 2013

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
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 undersigned members of the Education and Library Networks Coalition (EdLiNC), take this opportunity to endorse the American Library Association's nomination for the library position appointment to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors. Linda Lord, Maine State Librarian, has been involved with the E-rate program since its beginning and will bring a wealth of experience both with the program and with the concerns of program applicants to the USAC Board. Through her broad experience, including with a state network that serves both libraries and schools, Ms. Lord has the knowledge and experience necessary to make a significant contribution to the USAC Board.

Ms. Lord has long been an advocate for the library community as Maine State Librarian, a member of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), and serving as Chair of ALA's E-rate Task Force. Ms. Lord also spent six years in the Maine Department of Education and appreciates the concerns of the education community as well. In addition to her deep understanding of the E-rate program, the Maine State Library is part of a state-wide consortium that runs the network which provides internet access for 899 of Maine's libraries and schools. Ms. Lord was instrumental in the development of this network and continues to devote her expertise as a member of the governing council. Ms. Lord also serves on the ConnectME Advisory Board, part of the Maine state government, that facilitates the universal availability of broadband to all Mainers. Ms. Lord understands the critical nature of broadband access for schools and libraries, and the communities they serve and will no doubt rely on this insight in her role as a USAC Board member should she be appointed.

The undersigned members of EdLiNC are pleased to support Ms. Lord's nomination and are confident she will provide the necessary leadership and professional collaboration that ensures the integrity and continued success of the E-rate program and more broadly, the Universal Service Fund.

Submission of members of EdLiNC, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45. November 4, 2013

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Association of School Administrators (AASA)
Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESAs)
Consortium for School Networking (CoSN)
International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)
National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)
National Education Association (NEA)
National School Boards Association (NSBA)