CITY OF LONG BEACH

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September 17, 2026

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
U.S. Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554.

RE: Opposition to Docket Nos. 26-133, 13-184, 21-93, 21-455, Review of E-Rate Programs

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), this comment is provided in opposition to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, In the Matter of Ensuring Children's Safe Use of Screens and E-Rate-Funded Services. Suspending or significantly reducing the E-rate program will restrict who has access to necessary and valuable internet services, further deepening the digital divide across the country and within low-income communities.

The City is committed to ensuring every individual in Long Beach has equitable access and use of digital literacy training, the internet, technology devices and other digital inclusion resources and services, as outlined the City's Digital Inclusion Roadmap. Reliable affordable broadband services ensure local libraries and schools can offer meaningful programs and educational opportunities for Long Beach children, students and seniors.

The City receives an 80 percent Category One discount rate on internet access at all 12 of the City's library locations through the E-rate: Universal Service Program for Schools and Libraries. The discount supports free public Wi-Fi at all libraries, where patrons can connect using their own devices (laptop, phone, etc.) or borrow library-owned devices to access the internet.

General use computers and computers in the Library's Family Learning Centers, totaling more than 320 CIPA compliant terminals system-wide, are available for use to browse the internet, access digital learning, and read eBooks, newspapers, and magazines. These computers are also used for digital literacy training classes, homework, job seeking, and career skill building. Additionally, patrons have access to computers in The Studio, the library's makerspace, which teaches functional skills like graphics, video editing, 3D printing, and more. Annually, more than 80,000 library patrons access these critical services.

Without the support of the E-rate program, the City will be forced to significantly reduce these critical services residents rely on for education, employment, communication, and entertainment. The City strongly encourages the FCC to reject the proposed changes to the E-rate program and continue investing in the broadband programs and services that have created opportunities for countless Long Beach households and families. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these proposed rules. Please contact Sarah Patterson, Manager of Government Affairs, at Sarah.Patterson@longbeach.gov for any questions or further information regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

Tom Modica
City Manager