



January 30, 2014

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: ConnectED Initiative and E-Rate Modernization

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

America's schools need an upgrade. We must leverage technology to transform education and prepare our youth for the knowledge economy. Last summer, President Obama called on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to modernize the E-Rate program to connect 99% of America's students to high-speed broadband and ubiquitous Wi-Fi. Today, America's CEOs call on you to ensure that the funding is available to upgrade K-12 school Internet infrastructure for digital learning.

Scarcely a business exists today that has not been transformed by the Internet. It has changed how we create and deliver our products, find our customers, and service their needs. The Internet has also altered the very nature of work and the skills individuals need to be competitive in the knowledge economy. If a business does not embrace technology and the Internet, that business will be unable to compete in the global economy. If our schools do not embrace technology and the Internet, our children will be unable to compete in the global economy.

America's businesses need a workforce that is prepared for the knowledge economy. We need schools that teach our students the 21st century skills that are the foundation of a competitive workforce and whose graduates are college and career ready. In an era of scarce resources and increasing complexity in the classroom, digital learning represents our country's best hope to transform its K-12 education system to meet these goals. America cannot afford to stand by while our competitors around the world invest in the future of education and a workforce that is superior to our own.

The foundation of digital learning is robust Internet infrastructure. Unfortunately, 72% of our schools and more than 40 million students do not have access to the connectivity and equipment they need¹. To ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to participate in the knowledge economy, we must connect our schools to fiber and deploy ubiquitous wireless networks to all of our classrooms.

The E-Rate program has the resources to make this investment. The FCC must act boldly to modernize the E-Rate program to provide the capital needed to upgrade our K-12 broadband connectivity and Wi-Fi infrastructure within the next five years. The FCC must

also ensure that E-Rate funding is spent effectively. In this era of scarce resources the FCC should focus E-Rate spending on upgrading America's K-12 Internet infrastructure and help schools dramatically lower the cost of bandwidth. This can be accomplished by using E-Rate funds to provide the capital investment to connect our school districts to high-speed fiber networks. This is a financially sound investment that will lower bandwidth costs, enable investments in Wi-Fi upgrades, and generate tremendous returns for both our students and the American taxpayer.

We are grateful for the FCC's attention to this critical issue and stand ready to help achieve this important mission for America's future.

Respectfully,

Mike Jeffries
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Abercrombie & Fitch

Jim Breyer
Partner
Accel Partners

Shantanu Narayen
Chief Executive Officer
Adobe

Joe Gebbia
Chief Product Officer and Co-Founder
Airbnb

Nathan Blecharczyk
Chief Technology Officer and
Co-Founder
Airbnb

Kenneth Chenault
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
American Express

Joel Klein
Chief Executive Officer
Amplify

Craig Kallman
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Atlantic Records

Carl Bass
President and Chief Executive Officer
Autodesk

Richard Rosenberg
Former Chairman and Chief Executive
Officer
Bank of America

Bruce Dunlevie
General Partner
Benchmark

Dan Doctoroff
Chief Executive Officer
Bloomberg L.P.

Michael Lazerow
Founder and Former Chairman and Chief
Executive Officer
Buddy Media

Michael Dell
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Dell Inc.

Drew Houston
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Dropbox

John Donahoe
President and Chief Executive Officer
eBay

Joseph Tucci
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
EMC Corporation

Mark Zuckerberg
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Facebook

Dennis Crowley
Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Foursquare

George Lucas
Founder and Chairman
The George Lucas Educational Foundation

Eric Schmidt
Executive Chairman
Google

Meg Whitman
President and Chief Executive Officer
Hewlett-Packard Company

Scott Cook
Founder and Chairman of the Executive
Committee
Intuit

Jamie Dimon
Chairman, President, and Chief Executive
Officer
JPMorgan Chase

Sal Khan
Founder and Executive Director
Khan Academy

Vinod Khosla
Founder
Khosla Ventures

James Tisch
President and Chief Executive Officer
Loews Corporation

Steve Ballmer
Chief Executive Officer
Microsoft Corporation

James P. Gorman
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Morgan Stanley

Reed Hastings
Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Netflix

Matthew Roberts
President and Chief Executive Officer
OpenTable

Max Levchin
Co-Founder and former Chief Technology
Officer
PayPal

Vinny Smith
Former Chief Executive Officer and
Chairman
Quest Software

Steve Case
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Revolution Ventures

Marc Benioff
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Salesforce.com

Stephen Luczo
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Seagate Technology

Michael Moritz
Venture Capitalist
Sequoia Capital

Jeffrey Housebold
President and Chief Executive Officer
Shutterfly

Lars Dalgaard
Founder and Cloud Special Advisor
SuccessFactors

Dave Goldberg
Chief Executive Officer
Survey Monkey

Ron Conway
Founder
SV Angel

Tory Burch
Chief Executive Officer and Designer
Tory Burch

Pete Flint
Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Trulia

Fred Wilson
Managing Partner
Union Square Ventures

Richard Kovacevich
Former Chairman and Chief Executive
Officer
Wells Fargo

Aneel Bhusri
Chairman, Co-Founder, and Co-Chief
Executive Officer
Workday

Ursula Burns
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Xerox

Marissa Mayer
Chief Executive Officer, President, and
Director
Yahoo

Chad Hurley
Co-Founder and former Chief Executive
Officer
YouTube

Spencer Rascoff
Chief Executive Officer
Zillow

Cc: Commissioner Clyburn, Commissioner O’Rielly, Commissioner Pai, and Commissioner Rosenworcel

We are a coalition of business leaders who are united in the belief that upgrading America’s K-12 Internet infrastructure is critical to the future of education, the competitiveness of America’s workforce, and the preparation of America’s students for the knowledge economy.

¹ Source: EducationSuperHighway National SchoolSpeedTest, 2013