

February 7, 2018

The Honorable John Lively, State Representative
Chairman, House Interim Committee on Economic Development and Trade
900 Court St. NE, H-471
Salem, Oregon 97301

Representative Lively,

We are Technology Leaders from InterMountain E.S.D. writing in support of filling the E-rate Special Construction State Match Fund established under HB 4023. This opportunity for our schools to secure funding in support of high-speed broadband that is both scalable and affordable is essential to provide Oregon students with quality personalized learning opportunities in this digital age. Many Oregon schools cannot achieve fiber special construction without leveraging the FCC's E-rate State Matching Fund program, **which will cover up to 90% of the fiber construction if the State replenishes the previously created fund and contributes 10% or more of the project cost to applicant districts.**

The HB 4023 matching funds allocated in 2018 leveraged just over \$4M in successful funding for three rural Eastern Oregon Districts, Elgin, Imbler, and Huntington. Without the financial support of this program, these schools would not have access to the special construction opportunities to receive affordable high-speed broadband in support of student learning. The build challenges faced by remote rural Oregon include geography, distance, and lack of providers and/or available facilities.

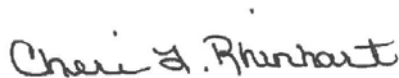
Nine additional districts in our region are prime candidates to take advantage of E-rate dollars for 2019-2020 projects and need the State to allocate funds to take them into the 21st Century. Fiber brings reliable, scalable, and equitable Internet access for the long term and is a solid investment for students and their families.

These districts are filing **for 2019-2020 E-rate funding and have awarded contracts contingent on receiving funding from E-rate and the Oregon Special Construction State Match.** High speed broadband is one step closer to reality, but unless school districts receive funding from the State match, the projects remain cost prohibitive. Our regions' schools need **\$880,146 from the State** to move forward with **over \$10M** in projects.

District	Project Cost	2019-2020 E-Rate Request	2019-2020 Federal Match Request	2019-2020 State Match Request	District Portion
Cove SD	556,869.00	389,808.30	55,686.90	111,373.80*	0.00*
Helix SD	777,400.00	466,440.00	77,740.00	233,220.00*	0.00*
Ukiah SD	7,394,000.00	6,654,600.00	369,700.00	369,700.00	0.00
Adrian SD	1,156,254.00	925,003.20	115,625.40	115,625.40	0.00
Annex SD	42,242.00	38,017.80	2,112.10	2,112.10	0.00
Four Rivers CS	55,287.00	49,758.30	2,764.35	2,764.35	0.00
Malheur ESD	15,054.00	10,838.88	1,505.40	1,505.40	1,204.32
Nyssa SD	25,000.00	22,500.00	1,250.00	1,250.00	0.00
Vale SD	851,893.00	766,703.70	42,594.65	42,594.65	0.00
Total	\$10,873,999.00	\$9,323,670.18	\$668,978.80	\$880,145.70*	

**Note - Cove SD and Helix SD are requesting the State fund over 10% which is permitted under the Federal program. Districts will not otherwise be able to fund remaining portion.*

We respectfully ask for your support to fill the E-rate Special Construction State Match Fund, established under HB 4023, on behalf of our rural Oregon districts and their students.



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