

SUBJECT: Correspondence

PREPARED BY: Administration

DATE: May 26, 1999

FOR AGENDA OF: June 14, 1999

SUMMARY:

FYI:

Please see attached correspondence:

- Rick Halford re: thanks for supporting continuation of senior citizen property tax exemptions.
- Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer re: explanation of the Universal Service Fund/E-Rate program for schools and libraries.
- State funded projects.
- Special Olympics story.

FISCAL IMPACT: No Yes, amount requested: \$ Fund:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:


 Reviewed by: SARAH PALIN, Mayor

- Attachments:
- Rick Halford letter
 - Lieutenant Governor letter
 - Frontiersman – State funded projects
 - Special Olympics

Presented with:
Date: 6/14/99 **Verified by:** [Signature]

Alaska State Legislature

Senate

**RICK
HALFORD**

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska
99801-1182
Phone (907) 465-4958
Fax (907) 465-4928

P.O. Box 670190
Chugiak, Alaska 99567
Phone (907) 694-4958
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600 E. Railroad Avenue
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
Phone (907) 376-4958

May 16, 1999

Sarah Palin, Mayor
City of Wasilla
290 E. Herning Ave.
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Mayor Palin,

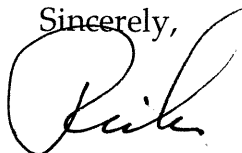
Thank you for contacting my office with the Wasilla City Council's Resolution 99-15 supporting the continuation of senior citizen property tax exemptions.

As you know, I have always been and continue to be a strong advocate for Alaska's senior citizens. I wholeheartedly agree with the council's resolution and will not lend my support to any measure that adversely affects senior programs.

Again, thank you for sharing the Council's resolution with me. I appreciate the opportunity to share my position with you on this important issue.

As always, it is a pleasure working with you.

Sincerely,



RICK HALFORD

RH/sw



Official Business



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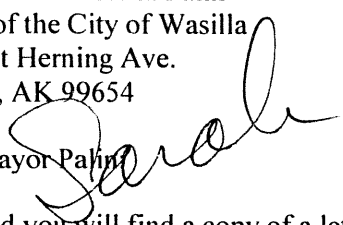
MAY 24 1999

FRAN ULMER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF ALASKA

CITY OF WASILLA, ALASKA

May 19, 1999

The Honorable Sarah Palin
Mayor of the City of Wasilla
290 East Herning Ave.
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Mayor Palin 

Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter I sent to William Kennard, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, expressing support for fully funding the second round of applications for the Universal Service Fund/E-Rate program for schools and libraries.

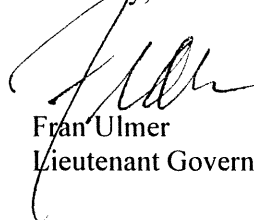
While you may be familiar with the program let me provide a bit of background and give you an overview of what E-Rate has provided statewide. E-Rate provides discounted telecommunication rates for schools and libraries. These discounts range from 20 to 90 percent depending on need. Discounts cover costs of Internet connectivity, telephone services, wiring and some internal connections. Alaska's schools and public libraries received more than \$11 million in discounts in the first application round. Attached are two tables showing the public libraries and school districts which received discounts.

The Knowles-Ulmer Administration worked hard to ensure that all school districts and public libraries in Alaska could participate in and be eligible for the program by simplifying and expediting the plan approval process. As a result, our state was very successful. The program has encouraged competition within the telecommunications sector and has provided increased services for schools and libraries. The program helped spur expansion of the telecommunications infrastructure in our rural areas. We know, however, that much remains to be done. Secure and adequate E-Rate funding will be critical for continued expansion.

On May 27, the Federal Communication Commission will vote on the level of E-Rate funding to be available in round two. Because of some hostile reactions from some states that are predominately urban and from some telecommunication providers, the vote may be a close one. I would welcome your support and letters of encouragement this week to ensure that the full amount authorized is allocated to this program. I know it is important to your community, and I thank you for any efforts you are able to make in support of this program.

Sincerely,

I hope all is well!



Fran Ulmer
Lieutenant Governor

Enclosures



FRAN ULMER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF ALASKA

May 11, 1999

Honorable William E. Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to urge your support for full funding of the E-Rate program for schools and libraries in round two. As most of Alaska's schools and libraries are in rural and very remote areas, the need for funding is particularly acute in our state. Alaska's needs were well-documented in round one, but only partially funded.

During round one, most of our school districts applied for E-Rate subsidies. Only one-third of our public libraries participated. In our state, widespread demand for telecommunications services remains unmet. Because the telecommunications infrastructure is not evenly distributed throughout Alaska, some schools and libraries could not apply for discounts on advanced services because such services were not available. Many of our libraries only requested dial-up Internet service because that was the only service available to them.

Geography and cost have conspired to slow Alaska's telecommunications progress outside of our largest city. E-Rate is helping to encourage competition and meet the intent of the 1996 Telecommunications Act by spurring a more rapid development of the telecommunications infrastructure. Much remains to be done and E-Rate funding is critical to this continued expansion.

While much has been accomplished in a short time, it is clear that the goals of the program can only be met with continued funding. Alaska's school and library communities, in cooperation with state government, have dedicated considerable resources to making this an effective program. These efforts require adequate multi-year funding.

The Honorable William E. Kennard
May 11, 1999
Page 2

I appreciate the efforts of the FCC to date and I urge your support for full funding for round two at the level at \$2.25 billion.

Sincerely,



Fran Ulmer
Lieutenant Governor

FU:PS:ps

Public Libraries Qualifying for E-Rate Subsidies in the First Funding Cycle

Applicant Name	Subsidy Amount
City And Borough Of Sitka	\$2,992.50
City Of Unalaska	\$9,515.61
City Of Wrangell	\$5,768.50
Copper Valley Community Library	\$508.98
Craig Public Library	\$524.89
Eagle Public Library	\$7,467.60
Elim Community Library	\$4,872.00
First City Libraries	\$3,948.00
Gustavus Public Library	\$12,678.00
Haines Borough Public Library	\$1,065.10
Hollis Public Library	\$216.00
Homer Public Library	\$5,394.00
Juneau Public Library	\$11,196.94
Kenai Community Library	\$7,946.00
Ketchikan Public Library	\$3,116.96
Matanuska-Susitna Library Network	\$4,620.00
McGrath Community Library	\$2,119.09
Pelican Public Library	\$840.00
Petersburg Public Library	\$2,953.50
Seward Community Library	\$1,601.25
Skagway Public Library	\$458.25
Trapper Creek Library Association	\$1,010.80
Valdez Consortium Library	\$5,805.00
Wasilla Public Library	\$1,992.90

Source: Alaska Department of Education, Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums, April 1999

School Districts Qualifying for E-Rate Subsidies in the First Funding Cycle

Applicant Name	Subsidy Amount
Alaska Gateway School District	\$313,505.26
Aleutian East Borough School District	\$298,907.80
Alyeska Central School	\$6,112.00
Anchorage School District	\$958,068.40
Annette Island School District	\$93,797.76
Bering Strait School District	\$828,382.05
Bristol Bay Borough School District	\$36,844.80
Chatham School District	\$193,047.20
Chugach School District	\$165,160.80
Copper River School District	\$27,560.00
Craig City School District	\$8,474.64
Delta-Greely School District	\$137,099.02
Dillingham City School District	\$44,327.40
Fairbanks-N Star Borough School District	\$299,993.76
Hoonah City School District	\$17,793.60
Iditarod Area School District	\$31,640.00
Juneau Borough School District	\$42,042.52
Kake City School District	\$23,584.32
Kashunamiut School District	\$64,084.50
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District	\$283,842.96
Ketchikan Gateway Borough School Dist	\$58,213.08
Klawock City School District	\$10,710.00
Klawock City School District	\$5,040.00
Kodiak Island Borough School Dist	\$117,050.22
Kuspuk School District	\$60,221.31
Lake & Peninsula School District	\$573,890.34
Lower Kuskokwim School District	\$955,506.12
Lower Yukon School District	\$1,050,519.60
Matanuska-Sustina Borough School District	\$510,606.32
Mount Edgecumbe High School	\$86,941.60
Nenana City School District	\$100,554.40
Nome City School District	\$6,957.50
North Slope Borough School District	\$278,105.35
Northwest Arctic Borough School District	\$841,238.52
Petersburg City School District	\$2,145.00
Pribilofs School District	\$34,766.00
Sitka School District	\$30,341.85
Skagway City School District	\$3,580.13
Southeast Island School District	\$17,242.50
Southwest Region School District	\$557,442.20
St Marys City School District	\$5,022.00
Tanana City School District	\$97,137.90
Unalaska City School District	\$32,535.47
Valdez City School District	\$18,697.00
Wrangell City School District	\$37,056.16
Yakutat City School District	\$170,164.80
Yukon Flats School District	\$775,523.60
Yukon-Koyukuk School District	\$759,879.75
Yupiiit School District	\$190,815.30

The Honorable William E. Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Michael Powell, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Gloria Tristani, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Harold Furchtgott-Roth, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Alaska Congressional Delegation

The Honorable Ted Stevens
United States Senate
522 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510-0201

The Honorable Frank Murkowski
United States Senate
706 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510-0202

The Honorable Don Young
United States House of Representatives
2111 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515-0201

Council
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FYI
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Houston City project

The City of Houston will get \$32,940 to blacktop Cheri Lake Road to White Rabbit Road and from there to King Arthur Road. No other money in the bill is earmarked for Houston.

Palmer City projects

Legislators appropriated \$455,000 to the City of Palmer to refurbish its sewer; and another \$106,000 for community facilities and equipment. No other capital project monies were appropriated for Palmer. The state Division of Agriculture, located in Palmer, received \$200,000 to repair a wall at the Mt. McKinley Meat plant, and \$125,000 for agricultural land disposals.

Talkeetna projects

Talkeetna received \$51,000 for its water and sewer system, an-

Other \$200,000 to purchase water removal equipment, and \$278,000 for planning, design and start-up of a center for the area's seniors, but none of the money requested by the community's senior citizens for a senior housing project was appropriated by legislators.

Nelchina-Mendeltna funding

The communities of Nelchina and Mendeltna, past Eureka Summit on the Glenn Highway, received \$26,366 for a community hall.

Wasilla City projects

Wasilla probably fared best of the Valley's communities. The city will get \$1,264,300 for storm water treatment, and another \$300,000 for waste water treatment. Legislators also gave Wasilla \$460,000 for pedestrian pathways on Bogard Road and Crusey Street, \$145,000 for a pedestrian pathway on Knik-Goose Bay Road, \$109,826 to pave Spruce Street, and \$420,000 for a septic upgrade.

Highway construction projects

The remainder of the capital budget appropriations for projects in Mat-Su are for improvements to the Parks and Glenn highways. Money for these projects goes to the state Department of Transportation (DOT), which will either build the pro-

Following are the highway improvement projects funded by the legislature this year: Approximately 90 percent of this money comes from the federal government, with the remaining 10 percent paid for by the state.

Glenn Highway projects

On the Glenn Highway, \$575,000 was appropriated for realignment at mile 49; \$7.4 million will be spent to rehabilitate the highway from Sutron to King Mountain, where clearing and surveying work has already begun.

Another \$240,000 is in the budget to construct a roadside rest facility between mileposts 98-99; \$14 million is to be used to replace the bridge at Caribou Creek (milepost 105); and a project to improve the intersection of the Glenn and Palmer-Wasilla highways received \$1.25 million.

Parks Highway projects

For Parks Highway projects, \$5 million was appropriated to reconstruct mileposts 35 to 37, from Church Road to the Parks Highway; and legislators appropriated \$20.99 million for highway rehabilitation between mileposts 37 and 44, from Church Street to Seward-Meridian Road. Construction of an interchange at the intersection of the Parks Highway and Seward-Meridian Road received \$4 mil-

highway from Seward-Meridian Road to Crusey Street and the to Lucas Road received \$4.1 million, while Lucas Road rehabilitation received \$190,000.

A whopping \$17.5 million appropriated to rehabilitate the Parks Highway from the Little Susitna River to White's Crossing (mileposts 57 to 67) and a railroad grade separation; an \$140,100 was approved to rehabilitate the highway from White's Crossing to Willard (mileposts 67 to 72).

All of these capital projects were approved by the Alaska Legislature before it adjourned with the Mat-Su's legislative delegation working to get the colleagues to support the projects. The delegation consists state Reps. Scott Ogan, Palmer, Vic Kohring, R-Wasilla/Peters Creek, Beverly Massala/Willow, and state Sens. Rita Halford, R-Wasilla/Chuglatana and Lyda Green, R-Mat-Su.

Credit for getting the federal highway money through the U.S. Congress goes to Alaska congressional delegation, U.S. Sens. Ted Stevens and Frank Murkowski, and U.S. Rep. Don Young.

All three are Republicans. The capital budget (SB 32) now goes to Gov. Tony Knowles, who signs it into law, let it pass in law without his signature, veto it.

Franksterman
June 1, 1988

Subject: Special Olympics

Just FYI
(SP) ... because
it's so nice!

A few years ago at the Seattle Special Olympics, nine contestants, all physically or mentally disabled, assembled at the starting line for the 100-yard dash. At the gun, they all started out, not exactly in a dash, but with a relish to run the race to the finish and win.

All, that is, except one boy who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times and began to cry. The other eight heard the boy cry.

They slowed down and looked back. They all turned around and went back. Every one of them.

One girl with Down's Syndrome bent down and kissed him and said, "This will make it better." All nine linked arms and walked across the finish line together.

Everyone in the stadium stood, and the cheering went on for several minutes.

People who were there are still telling the story. Why? Because deep down we know this one thing:

What matters in this life is more than winning for ourselves. What truly matters in this life is helping others win, even if it means slowing down and changing our course.