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Public Service Commission (PSC) Comments on Application No. NUSF-117 Progression Order No. 1

1. What opportunities can the PSC pursue to increase participation and cover costs incurred by libraries in installing fiber networks.

- Funding for equipment upgrades
- Funding to sustain the costs incurred for a longer period.

2. What barriers do libraries currently face in relation to participation in the E-rate program?

- CIPA requirements are a barrier to some libraries. There needs to be a better understanding of CIPA regarding censorship.
- Less complex forms to complete. (Although it has gotten simpler)
- Some villages/cities are reluctant to accept government funding.

3. Are there any partnerships or outreach opportunities which the PSC should pursue?

- The Listening Sessions for the Digital Equity Planning Program are excellent. Perhaps something like these sessions to help people understand the E-rate process and the advantages for receiving and upgrading fiber optics for their library.

Please extend the program past June 20, 2025, with a four-year continuation.

Cordially,
Cynthia L. Osborne

