



August 11, 2015

Chairman Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC, 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors,
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing the nation's rural educators, we write today to urge you to re-appoint Dr. Daniel A. Domenech to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors as the representative for schools and libraries that are eligible to receive discounts, continuing a position he had held since 2012, and pursuant to § 54.501. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to submit this nomination.

Collectively, our organizations represent state and local organizations, schools, and educators concerned about educational opportunities for children who live in rural areas. Now, more than ever, access to appropriate and affordable connectivity is a critical component of educational opportunity in our rural communities, and E-Rate has been—and continues to be—a huge force for expanding connectivity. Dr. Domenech has proven an excellent and effective advocate for our rural communities. He has a deep understanding of the unique opportunities and obstacles that our schools and communities face each day, especially as it relates to technology and connectivity. Dr. Domenech's leadership at AASA, The School Superintendents Association, includes a proven track record as an excellent E-Rate advocate, and we are confident in his ability to continue serve as a strong addition to the USAC Board on behalf of all of our nation's schools, including rural schools.

Dr. Domenech currently serves as the Executive Director of AASA, the national professional organization representing chief executive officers, superintendents and senior level school administrators as well as cabinet members, professors and aspiring school system leaders. Dr. Domenech has more than 40 years of experience in public education, including 27 years served as a school superintendent. His education and leadership background would be a tremendous asset to the Board and entire universal service program. Further, his direct link to public school systems provides a sense of continuity when it comes to representing school system-level thoughts and opinions.

As the Executive Director for AASA, Dr. Domenech is deeply committed to supporting the total child, from physical and mental health to the development of fundamental, lifelong learning skills. In today's increasingly global and competitive world, a top notch education and the building of lifelong learning skills require access to education technology, and Dr. Domenech is acutely aware of the crucial role the E-Rate program plays in helping schools and libraries afford telecommunications connectivity.

Prior to AASA, Dr. Domenech worked at McGraw-Hill Education. Prior to his position at McGraw-Hill, Domenech served for seven years as superintendent of the Fairfax County, Va., Public Schools. Domenech began his teaching career in New York City, teaching sixth grade before becoming program director for the Nassau Board of Cooperative Educational Services. He began his superintendency tenure at Long Island's Deer Park Schools, a position he also held at South Huntington School. He has also served as district superintendent in the Second Supervisory District of Suffolk County and chief executive officer of the Western Suffolk BOCES

Domenech, an AASA member since 1979, served as president of AASA from July 1998 to June 1999. He is also a past president of the New York State Council of School Superintendents, the Suffolk County Superintendents Association, and the Suffolk County Organization for Promotion of Education. He was the first president and cofounder of the New York State Association for Bilingual Education.

In addition, Domenech has served on the U.S. Department of Education's National Assessment Governing Board, on the advisory board for the Department of Defense schools, on the Board of Overseers for the Baldrige Award and on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. He is currently chair for Communities in Schools of Virginia and the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, and is on the board for the Learning First Alliance, the Center for Naval Analyses, ACT and USAC.

Our associations strongly support the appointment of Dr. Domenech to the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors. We have been working with AASA and the Commission to improve the E-rate program since its inception. We believe that Dr. Domenech's broad understanding of education, education leadership and education technology, coupled with a strong work ethic and deep commitment to expanding educational opportunities to the nation's students will add to the work of USAC as it moves forward. His nomination to the USAC board provides continuity and leadership.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your approval of Dr. Domenech's nomination to the USAC Board of directors, representing schools and libraries that are eligible to receive discounts.

A copy of his professional biography is attached. If you have any questions, please email Noelle Ellerson (nellerson@aasa.org).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition](#)
[National Rural Education Association](#)
[Organizations Concerned About Rural Education](#)
[Rural School and Community Trust](#)