

FILE

Where
Success
is a Journey and
not a Destination



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New Knoxville Local School

March 12, 2012

10-2387-TP-COI

The Honorable Todd Snitchler, Chairman
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

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PUCO

Dear Chairman Snitchler:

The New Knoxville Local School District is served by the New Knoxville Telephone Company, a Small Local Carrier (SLEC). They have served our community for over 100 years and remain an integral service provider for our school system. We are very thankful for the benefits of affordable rates for our rural area, the great local service and technology.

It has come to our attention that due to the in-action by the PUCO, SLEC's such as New Knoxville Telephone Company stand to lose much of their intra-state revenue source, money they depend on for their investment in fiber, technology and human resources.

Case No. 10-2387-TP-COI would create a fund, financed by the large carriers, that supplants this lost revenue source. In return for their contributions to this fund, the large carriers will receive discounts on their access charges levied by the SLECs. State Access Reform is a good policy for Ohio. The PUCO has been working on this State Access Reform, for well over a year, and needs to implement this immediately to get the fund established. The PUCO needs to retain their jurisdiction over Ohio's SLECs and not relinquish this to the FCC.

School systems in Ohio are faced with reducing costs and adapting to the revenue shortfalls created by recent budget cuts. New Knoxville students and community would certainly be adversely affected if our local phone rates double due to our SLEC losing their intra-state revenue source.

In the best interests of our students, school, and community, I urge your immediate attention and direction to implement the provisions of this well-reviewed Commission investigation.

Sincerely,

Kimberly S. Waterman

Kimberly S. Waterman
Superintendent
New Knoxville Local School

Cc: The Honorable John R. Kasich, Governor
Stan W. Heffner, State Superintendent of Schools

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