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Public record of the referenced proceeding.

Pursuant to Section 1.176(e) of the Commission's Rules, this submission is being filed for inclusion in the public record of the referenced proceeding.

Question: What is the purpose of the Commission's decision regarding rural schools and libraries?

Response: The Commission seeks to expand the definition of "rural" to include more areas, specifically rural areas with a population of less than 2,500 people, in order to qualify for the E-Rate program benefits. This decision is expected to benefit many schools and libraries across the country.

Rationale: By expanding the definition of "rural," the Commission aims to ensure that more rural schools and libraries can access the E-Rate program's benefits, thereby improving access to technology and digital resources in these regions.

Conclusion: The expansion of the rural definition will be a significant step towards bridging the digital divide and enhancing educational opportunities in rural areas.