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NOTICE OF EX PARTE

July 8, 2016

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Investigation of Certain Price Cap Local Exchange Carrier Business Data Services Tariff Pricing Plans*, WC Docket No. 15-247; *Special Access Rates for Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers*, WC Docket No. 05-25; *AT&T Corp. Petition for Rulemaking to Reform Regulation of Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier Rates for Interstate Special Access Services*, RM-10593; *Technology Transitions*, GN Docket No. 13-5; *Policies and Rules Governing Retirement of Copper Loops by Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers*, RM-11358; *Wireline Competition Bureau Seeks Comment to Refresh the Record on United States Telecom Association Petition for Declaratory Ruling that Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers are Nondominant in the Provision of Switched Access Services*, WC Docket No. 13-3

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On July 6 and 7, 2016, Melissa Newman of CenturyLink met, in separate meetings, with the FCC Legal Advisors to discuss the above-captioned proceedings. On July 6, CenturyLink met with Stephanie Weiner, Legal Advisor-Chairman Tom Wheeler; with Nick Degani, Legal Advisor-Commissioner Ajit Pai; with Claude Aiken, Legal Advisor-Commissioner Mignon Clyburn; with Amy Bender, Legal Advisor-Commissioner Mike O’Rielly, and, on July 7, with Travis Litman, Legal Advisor-Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel.

In the meetings, CenturyLink stated that additional criteria the FCC is reviewing in the context of discontinuances related to technology transitions should be limited to the streamlined process for discontinuing voice services. CenturyLink supports having the option of using the existing process in all circumstances. In addition, we explained that any showing of alternative services should only cover areas where we have actual customers.

CenturyLink also discussed the *Business Data Services* proceeding. We explained that the application of “catch-up” and “going-forward” annual productivity factors would be inappropriate, especially in light of declining incumbent LEC network utilization. We also

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observed that cell-site backhaul should constitute a separate market not subject to price regulation, given the sophistication and resources available to mobile service providers. We also explained that evaluations of competition in other markets must account for services provisioned using unbundled network elements and cable services.

Finally, CenturyLink explained that recent revelations regarding cable providers' responses to the Commission's data request show that many cable companies were, in 2013, capable of providing Metro Ethernet service far more broadly than originally thought. This shift has dramatic implications for these proceedings, and the agency must account for the new information in conducting any competitive market analysis.

Sincerely,

/s/ Melissa E. Newman

Copy via email to:

Stephanie Weiner

Nick Degani

Claude Aiken

Amy Bender

Travis Litman