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WASHINGTON, DC 20006

August 8, 2019

**SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA ECFS**

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

Re: Notice of Ex Parte in the Matter of Petition for Rulemaking to Amend and Modernize Part 54 of the Commission's Rules; RM-11841; CC Docket No. 02-6; and WC Docket No. 13-184

Dear Ms. Dortch:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules,<sup>1</sup> the undersigned hereby provides notice of an oral ex parte conversation on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 with Randy Clarke, wireline advisor for Commissioner Starks.

Attendees were Gina Spade, counsel for Region 10 Education Service Center (in person), and Gordon Taylor, Executive Director, Region 10 Education Service Center; Brent Goerner, Director/Chief Technology Officer, Region 10 Education Service Center; Dr. Clyde Steelman, Executive Director, Education Service Center Region 11; Rory Peacock, Deputy Executive Director, Technology, Education Service Center Region 11; Randon Lance, Director of Network Services, Education Service Center Region 15; and Russell Neal, VST Services, E-rate Consultant (via telephone) (collectively, the ESCs).

This meeting addressed the Petition for Rulemaking filed by Central Texas Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Peoples Telephone Cooperative, Inc, and Totelcom Communications, LLC.<sup>2</sup> During our meeting, we discussed various issues raised in the comments and replies that the ESCs filed in that proceeding. We discussed how the consortium approach has helped Texas school districts obtain better service for lower prices, and how the Texas Carriers' Petition for Rulemaking mischaracterized the competitive bidding processes conducted by the ESCs.

We also discussed how the Texas Carriers' proposed approach would harm, rather than foster, competition in the E-rate program, by giving incumbents a second bite at the apple and

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<sup>1</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206.

<sup>2</sup> Petition for Rulemaking of Central Texas Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Peoples Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and Totelcom Communications, LLC, RM-11841, CC Docket No. 02-6, WC Docket No. 13-184 (filed May 22, 2019) (Texas Carriers' Petition or Petition).

potentially disincentivizing competitors from bidding. Finally, we explained that the high-cost and E-rate programs have different goals, and thus that the Texas Carriers' characterization of new fiber installation as duplicative and wasteful is incorrect.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gina Spade".

Gina Spade  
*Counsel to Texas ESC Region 10*

cc: Randy Clarke