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September 25, 2017

VIA ECFS

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

Re: WC Docket Nos. 17-84; 17-79: Accelerating Wireline/Wireless Broadband
Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment



Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to 47 CFR § 1.1206(b)(2), this letter provides notice that, on September 21 and September 22, 2017, Andrew Newton, President, Infrastructure and Operations, Chris Parra, Vice President, Small Cell and Strategic Transactions, Jeffrey Strenkowski, VP, Deputy General Counsel of Governmental Affairs, and William Hanes, Director, Corporate Communications and Public Affairs of Uniti Fiber (“Uniti Fiber”); along with Kelly McGriff of Brackin, McGriff & Johnson, and the undersigned, as Counsel for Uniti Fiber, met separately with the following parties: Dr. Jay Schwarz, Wireline Advisor and Rachael Bender, Wireless Advisor to Chairman Ajit Pai; Louis Peraertz, Senior Legal Advisor, Wireless, International, and Public Safety, and Claude Aiken, Legal Advisor, Wireline to Commissioner Mignon Clyburn; Commissioner Michael O’Rielly and Amy Bender, Legal Advisor to the Commissioner; Commissioner Brendan Carr and Nathan Eagan, Acting Wireline Legal Advisor to the Commissioner; Travis Litman, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Rosenworcel; and with Angela DeMahy, Paul D’Ari, Aaron Goldschmidt, Erica Rosenberg, Suzanne Tetreault, and Mary Claire York of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and Michael Ray and Zachary Ross of the Wireline Competition Bureau.

In these meetings, representatives from Uniti Fiber described the issues encountered when attempting to install telecommunications facilities in the public rights-of way. Obstacles include: recalcitrant state Department of Transportation agencies, delays associated with issuing the requisite permits, and some municipalities demanding excessive franchise fees for small-cell deployments. In addition, a number of counties have effectively implemented moratoria or “abatements” on the processing of applications

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required for installation of facilities in the rights-of-way. Representatives from Uniti Fiber also detailed how these obstacles increase the costs associated with the installation of small cells, which can make such installations economically infeasible. Uniti Fiber representatives made other comments consistent with their comments and reply comments filed in the above-reference dockets and distributed the attached presentation to those present.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ronald W. Del Sesto, Jr.

Ronald W. Del Sesto, Jr.

cc: (Via E-Mail)
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Commissioner Brendan Carr
Dr. Jay Schwarz
Rachael Bender
Louis Peraertz
Claude Aiken
Amy Bender
Nathan Eagan
Travis Litman
Angela DeMahy
Paul D'Ari
Aaron Goldschmidt
Erica Rosenberg
Suzanne Tetreault
Mary Claire York
Michael Ray
Zachary Ross