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VIA ECFS

NOTICE OF EX PARTE

September 29, 2016

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

Re: *Business Data Services in an Internet Protocol Environment*, WC Docket No. 16-143;
*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 and RM-10593

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 28, Stewart Ewing, CFO, John Jones, Senior Vice President, Public Policy and Government Affairs, and Melissa Newman, all of CenturyLink met in separate meetings with Claude Aiken, Travis Litman and Stephanie Weiner on the above captioned proceeding.

CenturyLink explained that it spends roughly \$3 billion a year on capital expenditures with the bulk of that going into fiber-based advanced next generation technologies, network expansion, as well as network improvements. While more work remains to be done in our markets, the current Business Data Services proceeding could limit our efforts to improve and expand broadband service for customers.

CenturyLink explained in the meeting that the pricing proposals advanced by Verizon and INCOMPAS will have negative impacts on investment, jobs and broadband deployment in some of the most difficult to serve territories in the country. The rate reductions being discussed would make the business case for deploying fiber and broadband even more difficult. The result would be less competition and less broadband investment, not more. We urged the Commission to find a more balanced approach that recognizes the state of competition in the BDS market and does not negatively affect infrastructure investment.

Sincerely,

/s/ Melissa E. Newman