



November 16, 2017

VIA ECFS

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

Re: *Developing a Unified Inter-carrier Compensation Regime*, CC Docket No. 01-92; *Petition of AT&T Services, Inc. for Forbearance Under 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) from Enforcement of Certain Rules for Switched Access Services and Toll Free Database Dip Charges*, WC Docket No. 16-363

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The undersigned write in support of further Federal Communications Commission (“Commission”) action to address access stimulation. Despite prior Commission efforts, a handful of carriers continue to take advantage of the intercarrier compensation system through the use of services, like free conference calling, that generate high volumes of inbound calling to ordinary telephone numbers associated with remote locations. Those practices result in substantial charges for transport of the stimulated traffic to reach those locations, which are ultimately paid for by interexchange customers.

There is no compelling reason that such services must be associated with remote locations. But, this choice should not be driven by the purpose of imposing higher charges on other operators. Since the access stimulating carriers have made this choice, it would be appropriate for them, not other carriers, to bear the financial responsibility for the costs of transporting these calls between the terminating tandem switch or other point of interconnection designated by the local exchange carrier and the applicable end office or functional equivalent.

Accordingly, the undersigned urge the Commission to adopt rules to require carriers that are engaged in access stimulation to bear financial responsibility for all terminating switched transport costs (including both flat-rated and usage-sensitive charges) between their end office (or remote or functional equivalent) and the tandem switch to which the terminating carrier requires inbound calls to be routed.<sup>1</sup> Under these rules, those carriers engaged in access

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<sup>1</sup> The undersigned parties further agree that this proposal is limited to access stimulating carriers as defined currently in the Commission’s rules and is not intended to change any existing exchange points or to prejudice any ultimate

stimulation would not render bills to interexchange carriers for terminating tandem switched transport with respect to stimulated traffic, and would be required to pay the terminating tandem switched transport charges in lieu of interexchange carriers for these calls to other access providers of such transport. Such rules would resolve a significant component of AT&T's forbearance petition.<sup>2</sup> We look forward to presenting a detailed proposal for how such rules would work to Commission staff in the near future.

Respectfully,

/s/ Michael R. Romano

Michael R. Romano  
Senior Vice President – Industry Affairs  
& Business Development  
NTCA–The Rural Broadband Administration

/s/ Hank Hultquist

Hank Hultquist  
Vice President-Federal Regulatory  
AT&T Communications

/s/ Jennifer K. McKee

Jennifer K. McKee  
Vice President and Associate General  
Counsel  
NCTA – The Internet & Television  
Association

/s/ Malena Barzilai

Malena Barzilai  
Vice President – Government Affairs  
Windstream Services, LLC

/s/ Curtis L. Groves

Curtis L. Groves  
Associate General Counsel  
Verizon

/s/ Michael Saperstein

Michael Saperstein  
Vice President, Federal Regulatory  
Frontier Communications

/s/ Jonathan Banks

Jonathan Banks  
Senior Vice President Law & Policy  
USTelecom Association

/s/ Derrick B. Owens

Derrick B. Owens  
Vice President of Government Affairs  
WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband

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Commission decision on further intercarrier compensation reform including the network edge. Any payments actually made by access stimulating carriers for transport under this framework would not constitute “revenue-sharing” under the Commission’s rules.

<sup>2</sup> As a result, AT&T is contemporaneously requesting to withdraw its forbearance petition.