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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

July 15, 1996

William F. Caton  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W. - Room 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**RE: Ex Parte Notice  
CC Docket No. 96-98**

Dear Mr. Caton:

On July 12, 1996, Roy Neel (USTA), Dan Hubbard (SBC), Larry Sarjeant (U S WEST), Bill Taylor (NERA), Bernie Wunder (Wunder, Diefenderfer, Cannon & Thelen) and the undersigned met with FCC Chairman Hundt and John Nakahata, Legal Advisor to the Chairman.

The USTA group reiterated their position in this docket on the relationship between interconnection, access reform and universal service. We talked about the serious problems created if interexchange carriers are permitted to utilize interconnection in lieu of access charges before access reform and the universal service proceeding is complete. The discussion was consistent with comments filed by USTA on Monday, July 8 in this docket; and with USTA's comments and replies filed in May, 1996.

Because of the lateness of this meeting, this notice is being filed today. An original and one copy of this ex parte notice are being filed in the Office of the Secretary. Please include this notice in the public record of these proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary McDermott  
Vice President -  
Legal & Regulatory Affairs

cc: R. Neel      D. Hubbard  
L. Sarjeant    B. Taylor  
B. Wunder     R. Hundt  
J. Nakahata

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